

LAST WEEK'S
ESTIMATED DAILY SALE
474,000

No 63,049

Freedom hopes for Terry Waite linked to Gulf hijack

Kuwait holds key to fate of Iran hostages

From Robert Fisk, Bahrain

The fate of the 12 British men and 75 other passengers and crew still on board the hijacked Kuwaiti jet in north-eastern Iran rested last night on Kuwait's readiness to go back on its long-standing refusal to enter direct talks with the gunmen of Islamic Jihad.

It is the safety of three members of the Emirate's ruling al-Sabah family — two sisters and their brother — rather than that of other passengers which principally concerns the Kuwaitis.

But should they accept the hijackers' demands to release 17 prisoners held in Kuwait, then freedom could be closer for at least two American hostages in Beirut as well as for Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy who was kidnapped in Lebanon more than a year ago.

A team of Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials arrived at the Iranian provincial airport in Mashhad during the afternoon for what the Iranians described as "direct talks" with the hijackers over the 17 prisoners who were jailed for bombing the US and French Embassies in Kuwait in 1983.

The Kuwaitis explained the presence of their delegation as being "at the request of Iran", and said in a diplomatically worded statement that their

hijackers in Lebanon — Mr Terry Anderson, an American journalist, and Mr Thomas Sutherland, an academic at the American University in Beirut, both captured in 1985 — and their release has always been conditional on freedom for the 17 men in Kuwait.

Mr Waite disappeared in January of last year while himself trying to negotiate with Islamic Jihad for the freeing of the two Americans. He had tried vainly for more than 12 months to persuade the Kuwaitis at least to reduce the sentences of the 17 prisoners, but was told brusquely at the time that he need not even bother to apply for a visa to visit Kuwait.

The authorities there, however, appear to be showing a quite different sense of perspective now that members of the royal family are under threat of death. The hijackers said yesterday morning that the three al-Sabahs were in "imminent danger" if their demands were not met.

Speculation grew in Paris yesterday that M Jean-Charles Marchiani, the former intelligence agent who played a key role in a French hostage exchange in November, was back from a new mission in Syria with firm proposals for the release of the last three French hostages held in Lebanon. Page 7.

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Officials would "facilitate" the task of the Iranian authorities in ensuring the release of the airliner.

Earlier in the day, the Iranians themselves secured the freedom of most of the female passengers on the aircraft, including the 10 British women who were travelling from Bangkok to Kuwait when the jet was hijacked on Tuesday.

They could be seen on Iranian television during the evening, being led from the blue and white Boeing 747 in black headscarves, a concession to Iran's fundamentalist rules. The women were later said to be in good health after being installed in a Mashhad hotel.

In London, Mrs Thatcher told reporters before her two-day trip to Turkey that Kuwait was doing everything possible and said: "Their view on hijackings and on threats is the same as ours — we do not give in to blackmail because it only leads to further tragedies."

"That does not mean that you don't negotiate," she added. "People will be talking to them very carefully and very closely."

For three years, the Kuwaitis have adamantly refused to negotiate with the Islamic Jihad movement in Lebanon, which has made the very same demands as the hijackers on the Kuwaiti jet.

It is Islamic Jihad which holds the two longest-held

much now depends on the importance of the three within the royal family. There are around 1,200 al-Sabahs in Kuwait, and it was being said there yesterday that all were lowly members of the hierarchy, perhaps distant cousins of the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah. They are listed on the passenger manifest as Khaled Fadel al-Sabah and two sisters, Etessam and Anwar. All three were travelling in the plane's first-class compartment.

In public, at least, the Kuwaitis remained firm yesterday in their apparent refusal to yield to blackmail, a stand forcefully supported by the largely-paged Kuwaiti press.

But while in the West the possible sacrifice of family members for such a principle might be regarded as a sign of moral strength, this would not necessarily be the case in the Arab world. If any of the three al-Sabahs should die, the Emir's steadfastness would more likely be judged by his people as indifference rather than fortitude.

At Mashhad, the Kuwaiti jet was yesterday moved to a corner of the airfield, a development that might indicate a more lengthy ordeal for the 87 passengers and crew still on board.

At one point in the day, the gunmen — who now appear to number at least six and possibly eight — asked for a doctor to be sent to the plane. He later returned from the aircraft.

Continued on page 20, col 3



Standing firm: Mrs Thatcher in Downing Street yesterday emphasizing that there will be no deal with the hijackers. She later left on a two-day visit to Turkey.

BBC chief's blueprint for better journalism

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A blueprint for reversing the "declining" standards of British journalism, including independent ombudsmen for the main newspapers and broadcasting organizations, was outlined last night by Mr John Birt, Deputy Director-General of the BBC.

He said that unless the media moved swiftly to put its house in order, Parliament and the courts would step in with legal restrictions to impede reporters, and journalism would not win the argument for a freer flow of information.

Mr Birt, who was delivering the Royal Television Society's Fleming memorial lecture entitled *Decent Media*, said British journalism was not in a healthy condition and standards had slipped.

Tabloid newspapers were singled out for the strongest criticism. They regularly contained stories which invaded

the privacy of individuals for no reason of public interest; they showed insufficient concern for standards of good taste and occasionally indulged in "outright invention."

Broadcasters had also displayed lapses of standards, although not on the same

scale, and there were worrying signs of a drift in standards among broadsheet newspapers which sometimes displayed too little care for the truth.

Although impartiality and a sense of fair play could be found in the Press, "the sound of grinding axes, from proprietors, editors and individual correspondents" had become increasingly common.

"In broadcast and print, tabloid and broadsheet there is room for improvement, both in terms of the craft standards and of the code of ethics which underpin British journalism."

"It is no surprise to find evidence in opinion polls that British journalists are not popular," he said.

If the media was to avoid impositions which could restrict their legitimate activities, there had to be a "determined and radical move towards self-regulation."

Continued on page 20, col 1



New plea for Tube documents

By Rodney Cowton and Tony Dave

London Regional Transport is being asked to change its mind after refusing to supply vital documents to the King's Cross disaster inquiry.

The company, severely criticized at the inquiry yesterday over safety standards, was asked for copies of board minutes relating to safety.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, briefed by the Treasury Solicitor, said that almost no documentary evidence of the board's considerations of safety had been supplied.

While LRT has declined to supply the minutes, its subsidiary, London Underground, said last night that it had provided extracts of board minutes on fire safety.

Opening the second part of the inquiry yesterday, Mr Henderson called for a third party to oversee safety.

Inquiry report, page 5

Gorbachov flies to Afghan talks

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

New moves on the promised Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan were signalled yesterday when Mr Mikhail Gorbachov flew unexpectedly to the Central Asian city of Tashkent for talks with the Afghan leader, President Najibullah.

Also present in the capital of Soviet Uzbekistan, some 190 miles from the Afghan border,

was Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who accompanied the Afghan leader from Kabul where he has been holding negotiations on the Kremlin's behalf since Sunday.

The surprise meeting in Tashkent, headquarters of the Soviet military command for Afghanistan, prompted speculation that a new bilateral deal on terms for a withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops was being finalized in

case of a collapse in the Geneva peace talks.

On Monday, both Mr Shevardnadze and the Afghan leader underlined publicly that the Soviet withdrawal would go ahead whatever the fate of the UN-sponsored talks in Geneva.

First news of the Tashkent talks was provided by Moscow Radio, but it gave no details of the agenda. It is assumed that Moscow may want to change its withdrawal terms if it signs a one-to-one agreement with the Afghan Government, possibly even altering the agreed timetable of nine months for the pull-out.

In recent days, the Geneva talks have floundered over the issue of military aid, with Moscow insisting that it will continue to supply the Kabul Government, while demanding that Washington ceases supplying weapons to the Muslim rebels.

Reserves at record \$47 billion

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's official reserves rose strongly last month as the Bank of England intervened heavily to hold down sterling.

The figures show why the decision was taken, at the behest of the Prime Minister, to "uncap" sterling and allow it to rise against the mark.

The reserves rose by \$2.2 billion (£1.2 billion) in the period March 2-4, as the Bank struggled to hold sterling below DM3. Had the ceiling on the pound been kept in place, it would have required an unprecedented amount of foreign exchange intervention.

Even so, the value of the reserves on March 31, \$47.52 billion (£25.22 billion) was nearly 2½ times the level at the beginning of last year, and easily the largest on record.

The Bank intervened modestly yesterday to restrain the pound, and was successful in taking the steam out of its rise. But officials have emphasized that there will be no prolonged, large-scale intervention as was seen last year.

Bank acts, page 21

Profit drop

Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, the merchant banking group, saw profits drop £14.5 million last year, despite coming through the October crash unscathed. Page 21

Job cowboys

Corner-cutting employers seeking staff are encouraging cowboy recruitment methods, says an introduction to today's seven pages of *Appointments*. Pages 29-35

Masters meet

Severiano Ballesteros, twice a former winner, is the favourite for the 52nd US Masters golf tournament starting today at Augusta, Georgia. Page 38

FA charge

The Arsenal manager, George Graham, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the FA following an incident at the end of last week's match against Oxford United. Page 40

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Israeli fury over shooting of girl

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

An Israeli girl and two Palestinian villagers were killed yesterday in what could turn out to be the most explosive incident since the uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip began four months ago.

The incident occurred outside the village of Beit, near Nablus, when a group of Israeli children, from the settlement of Elon Moreh, out on a hike, were attacked by stone-throwing villagers.

Armed escorts accompanying the hikers opened fire on the villagers, killing two of them and wounding two others. Enraged villagers then fell upon the escorts, seized their

weapons and opened fire on the children.

According to initial reports from the area, one girl was killed and some 14 other children were wounded, one seriously.

There have long been fears that the killing of a Jewish settler could ignite a powerful pogrom in the occupied territories. The Army sealed off the village of Beit as settlers from all over the West Bank poured into Elon Moreh.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, said no efforts would be spared "to cut off the hands of the cowardly murderers and prevent terrorism from achieving its objectives."

Shultz shuttle, page 7

Tears of relief as Alps pupils return to school

By Andrew Morgan

The party of schoolchildren who lost four friends in the Austrian mountain accident arrived home yesterday.

Parents received details of counselling and support services as the pupils returned to Allwood Church of England School, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr Oliver Jenks, the headmaster, said the family support unit set up last summer in Hungerford by Berkshire County Council after Michael Ryan's rampage was being made available. Units from Stoke Poges, in Buckinghamshire, which suffered the loss of youngsters at Land's End, were also being contacted.

Mr Jenks, headmaster for nine years, was present at the emotional reunion of the 41 children with their

parents. He also consoled the group's leader Mr Brian Lee, and his three colleagues, Stephen Whitney, Cary Holyoak and Jackie Smith.

About 20 teachers, half the school's complement, turned out to offer support. Other pupils — some friends of the four dead boys — carried luggage from the coach to waiting cars. The returning teachers declined to speak.

The home-coming was particularly poignant for the fathers of two boys who fell with their friends, but escaped death by clinging to a tree.

Mr Christopher Plumridge, whose son Thomas, aged 14, was on his second trip to the area with the school, said: "He has said absolutely nothing. He clung on to my wife Lynn for five minutes solid and cried."

Mr Plumridge, aged 39, added: "Thomas will have to live with the tragedy and I don't know when exactly he will get over it. Only time will tell."

He added that he had no intention of taking any legal action against the four teachers, even if the Austrian authorities found that they had been negligent. "I feel so sorry for Mr Lee and the other teachers — especially Mr Lee who is liked by everyone. They will have to live with this for the rest of their lives."

He described his "great relief" when he saw his son get off the bus after the 24-hour journey. "Obviously, at the back of my mind was the thought of the four boys who would not be coming home."

Another father, Mr Melvyn Davies, who was reunited with his son,

Richard, aged 15, said: "Richard has lost his best friend and that will hurt him for many years. When he saw my wife Helen, he just broke down and cried like so many of the others. It is so cruel that this tragedy has been inflicted on so many young minds."

Both men insisted that they would allow their sons to take the same school trip, which cost about £330 a head, to the area again. Mr Jenks said that he could see no reason why similar school trips could not be organized again.

The four dead boys are expected to be flown home on Friday and their funerals are likely to be towards the end of next week. A memorial fund is being set up.

Berkshire County Council had arranged a wide-ranging insurance cover for the school party

Portfolio Accumulator

£152,000 won by London woman

A GTI at the gate, school fees for the children, a holiday in Portugal, an architect to design the new conservatory, a week on a health farm and a crash course to give up smoking — these are some of the things Mrs Jennifer Chelley of Barnes has thought of buying with the £152,000 jackpot she has scooped as the first winner of the Times Portfolio Accumulator prize.

Yesterday Mrs Chelley breakfasted on orange juice and a piece of toast before checking her Portfolio card. Today she could treat herself to vintage champagne and caviare if she wished.

Because at the eighth recount she satisfied herself that her card's share numbers showed a total increase of 45 points, one more than the target of 44 set for yesterday's daily prize.

At 10.30am she became the first successful claimant for the Accumulator prize which has been swelling in value since it was introduced on February 1.

"The lady who took the call was moved and that was, but now I am getting a dry throat and butterflies in my stomach", Mrs Chelley said.

She has been playing Portfolio since the game started in 1984, and she has never come close to winning a prize before. Her husband, Mr George Chelley, who runs his own business as a paper importer, took his wife's good fortune philosophically yesterday. "I am not making any suggestions about what we should do with it", he said, "because I do not think there will be much left when she has done all the things she has thought of herself."

Mrs Chelley, who lives in a comfortable Edwardian terraced house near Hammersmith Bridge, had planned to spend yesterday making cups of tea for the workmen retelling her kitchen and taking her daughter, Abigail, to the dentist.

Instead she had a tense wait until the Portfolio claim lines closed at 3.30 to be certain that she had the prize to herself. Abigail, aged 11, was taken to the dentist by her grandmother, having first had an earnest request to have her own telephone line installed in her bedroom.

"I don't know about that. It sounds rather silly", she said. Mrs Chelley said, "I am just too stunned to make any decision yet," she said. "There is always something needed in the home, we are in the middle of having our roof repaired after the storm, but I suppose a holiday would be nice."

How to spend £152,000, page 21

in — but Mrs Chelley rejected that idea too. "It would be us down too much". Having recently survived several weeks without a cooker while her kitchen was refitted, Mrs Chelley looked forward to the possibility of eating out more often.

"Wherever we go will have to have chips for the children, though". And she thought she might treat herself to some new clothes and expensive shoes.

Formerly in advertising, Mrs Chelley had thought of returning to work now that her children are in school, but that idea was abandoned yesterday.

"Things will have changed so much in the past 10 or 11 years that I do not know where I would fit in. But having the children's school fees secure for several years will be a real advantage too."

As for the GTI, Mrs Chelley thinks she should have one, even though she cannot drive. The prize money, properly invested with the help of a family friend, will pay for driving lessons too.

"At this rate," Mrs Chelley said, "the money will all be spent by Saturday, but just

Mrs Chelley: Fortune after eight recounts.

now I am going to jump up and down outside."

Yesterday's £4,000 daily winner is Mrs Cristina Kennedy of Crayford, Kent. She works as secretary to the managing director of Canberra Cruises, but she has not decided whether to spend part of the £4,000 on a holiday.

"I am just too stunned to make any decision yet," she said. "There is always something needed in the home, we are in the middle of having our roof repaired after the storm, but I suppose a holiday would be nice."

How to spend £152,000, page 21

WIN £10,000

Today Portfolio Accumulator starts afresh with £10,000 in the fund. Accumulator offers two chances to win each day: the £4,000 prize or the contents of the Accumulator fund, won when a reader's number is higher than the daily total.

All unclaimed daily prizes, instead of going over to the next day, are added to the Accumulator fund. On Saturdays the weekly £8,000 competition continues, and if that is not claimed it too passes into the fund. There is no daily competition on Saturdays — but £4,000 is nonetheless added to the fund each weekend.

Your existing gold card is all you need to play Portfolio Accumulator; cards can also be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Portfolio, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Telegraph buys The Spectator

The Spectator, the 160-year-old weekly review, has been sold to The Daily Telegraph for an undisclosed sum, it was announced last night.

In a move aimed at ending recent uncertainty about the magazine's future, the present owner — John Fairfax (UK) — broke the news of the deal.

Today's edition of the magazine will contain a pledge from Mr Andrew Knight, chief executive of The Daily Telegraph, to maintain The Spectator's independence, adding that he looked forward to helping the current Spectator team "advance the magazine's existing success".

This is the third ownership change at The Spectator in three years. In 1985, oil millionaire Mr Algy Cluff sold it for £1 million to the Australian-based Fairfax group.

Last year, the Fairfax group was bought out by a younger member of the Fairfax family, who is currently selling off some of its assets to repay bank borrowings.

Ferry talks ruled out

P&O European Ferries appeared to close the door on any immediate return to talks over the nine-week Dover ferry dispute yesterday. After its regular board meeting, the company said further discussions with the National Union of Seamen would not go ahead "until the union committed itself to realistic changes in the present outdated work practices". Mr Sam McCuskie, the union's general secretary, called the ferry company's stance "a recipe for continued confrontation".

Longleat lions on pill

Ten lionesses at Longleat are to be put on a contraceptive pill to curb a population explosion. For 22 years the lions at the safari park have prided themselves on their breeding capabilities. Today two-year-olds, Elsie and Sonja, will be the first to be implanted with a long-lasting contraceptive capsule in their necks. Manager Roger Cawley explained: "The lions have been so happy they are breeding all the time and now we have too many. The contraceptive is released slowly and should make them infertile for up to three years."

Speedboat drownings

Two teenagers drowned when their speedboat overturned off the Cornish coast in the early hours of yesterday, and a third boy was recovering after spending five hours in freezing seas. Bernard Butler, aged 19, his brother Kevin, aged 14, and their friend Edmund Davies, also 14, set out from Looe on Tuesday night and it is thought they may have taken the 15 ft Fletcher-class speedboat too far out to sea. Kevin was found off Polperro shortly after 2am, but Edmund, of Market Street, East Looe, was already dead. The search for Bernard's body continued yesterday.

T S Eliot appeal

Leading figures from literature and the theatre have launched a £100,000 appeal for the London Library to commemorate the centenary of T. S. Eliot's birth. The money will be used to help with the subscriptions of students and needy scholars and to enable the private library, in St James's Square, to buy books it could not otherwise afford. T. S. Eliot was president of the London Library from 1952 until 1964. The patrons are Peggy Ashcroft, Roy Fuller, Alec Guinness, Ted Hughes, Iris Murdoch, Stephen Spender, Tom Stoppard and Michael Tippett.

Banerjee as Christ

Victor Banerjee, the Indian actor who played Dr Aziz in the film *A Passage to India*, has been chosen to play the role of Christ in the 1988 cycle of York Mystery Plays, part of the city's Arts Festival in June and July. His selection fulfils a long-standing ambition to act on stage in the UK, "and to work on a classic text of these proportions", he said. Other actors to have taken the role at the festival include Simon Ward and Christopher Timothy.

Best hearing

Mr Keith Best, the former Conservative MP who was imprisoned for four days for making multiple applications for British Telecom shares, is to face a disciplinary hearing which could disbar him. The Bar Council said yesterday that Mr Best's case had been referred by the professional conduct committee to a disciplinary tribunal which would decide in the autumn what action to take.

Funeral case bail

The High Court in Belfast yesterday granted £1,500 bail to a Joseph Coogan, a butchery assistant accused of withholding information from the police about the deaths in West Belfast last month of two British Army corporals.

General secretaries recommend tougher code of conduct

TUC avoids division on no-strike deals

By Roland Rudd and Tim Jones

The TUC pulled back yesterday from a damaging split over single-union, no-strike deals but voted for a code of conduct designed to make it harder for unions to sign such agreements in future.

Leading union general secretaries in the TUC Special Review Body voted by 13 to two in favour of a code of conduct and by 11 to two in favour of taking account of national agreements, such as the blue-book agreement at Ford which grants recognition to all unions at the company.

The decision not to take immediate action against no-strike agreements gives Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, breathing

space to draw up a formula to placate the engineers and the electricians, who have threatened to break away if their freedom to enter into such deals is curbed.

The threat by Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, to ballot his members on whether to leave the TUC over the proposed code before its formal adoption at the TUC's conference next September, is still a strong possibility. Both Mr Hammond and Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, voted against the principle of the new code.

Before the union leaders were able to vote on the substantive issue of whether unions should offer

compulsory arbitration, or strike-free deals, in exchange for recognition, Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, put forward an amendment that "unions should not be a party to compulsory arbitration".

Mr Willis, realizing that it would precipitate a split in the TUC if it was passed, won a crucial victory to defer the issue to the next special review meeting next month.

Mr Todd said he was not confident that his amendment would be passed. However, Mr Ken Gill, joint general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, said he believed the vote marked the end of single-union, no-strike agreements. He said the

engineers and electricians would be "crushed" if they left the TUC.

Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said: "There was nothing in the meeting that swung me to support compulsory arbitration as part of any new recognition agreement".

A further decision by the committee not to undermine other unions and to notify the TUC before implementing single-union agreements poses problems for both Mr Jordan and Mr Hammond.

Under the directives, the engineers' ill-fated single-union agreement with Ford of America, opposition to which led the company to abandon plans to establish a £40 million high technology plant

at Dundee, could have been reported to the TUC for undermining the transport union, which represents the majority of workers at Ford's 22 British plants.

The unions are also divided on whether they should register new agreements with the TUC. Mr John Edmunds, general secretary of the GMB general union, said the "warning system" preventing unions signing deals until they had notified the TUC.

Mr Gill said: "We must prevent unions from undermining each other and signing secret deals with managers. Only then could the trade union movement have prevented (News International's move to) Wapping and the Dundee episode."

Tory MPs oppose Ridley asset plan

By David Walker

Conservative district councillors have started a programme of intense lobbying of backbench Conservative MPs in order to forestall a government plan to redistribute capital assets owned by their councils to predominantly Labour city councils.

One leading councillor reported yesterday very positive support from MPs in opposition to the proposal, which is being considered by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment. He predicted a major rebellion by MPs if the issue went further.

Opposition to the plan was said not to be confined to "wet" Tory MPs known to be critical of Mr Ridley's plans for local government; dissent has been indicated by right-wing MPs as well.

According to the proposal, the Department of the Environment would take powers to redistribute the proceeds from sales of housing and other property.

It is estimated that those capital assets now total about £9.6 billion, much of which is in accounts belonging to the shire districts, which have taken government advice and sold much of their property portfolios.

Mr Ridley is understood to be worried by the fact that this money is not being used productively. If title to the assets were transferred to urban local authorities, it would allow them to spend more on housing and environmental refurbishment without offending the Treasury.

Mr Ridley has been highly embarrassed at finding that during the financial year just ended councils actually underspent the allocation given to them by the Department of the Environment for housing. That is partly because many of the Conservative districts have small building programmes and can use capital receipts to pay for them.

Official sources indicated that the furor over the redistribution proposal might delay publication of a White Paper on controls and capital spending.

Five die as lorry hits stalled minibus



The smashed minibus in which five people died and seven were hurt yesterday when a lorry crashed into the back of it.

Five people, including two children, were killed yesterday when an articulated lorry ploughed into their minibus which stalled during a sight-seeing trip around Newmarket, Suffolk.

Seven other passengers were hurt, two critically. Some of the victims were believed to come from Cheshire.

Two women, a man and a boy aged

eight died in the crash. A girl aged nine lost both her legs and died later in intensive care. The lorry driver, Mr Tony Finn, aged 25, of Herne Bay, Kent, was unhurt.

The party was mid-way through the National Horseracing Museum tour of equine centres when the accident happened. The driver, Mr David Wright,

aged 38, is the curator's assistant.

Police are investigating the possibility that the minibus had slowed down to give the group a better view of the town's July course.

As the injured were taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, police and Department of Transport officials began an investigation.

Teachers' conferences

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

NUT urged to embrace 'new realism'

Mr Fred Jarvis, leader of the National Union of Teachers, yesterday appealed to his members to bury their differences and set about winning the same public support for state education as that enjoyed by the National Health Service.

Mr Jarvis, in his closing address to the union's annual conference in Scarborough, said media reactions and a rush to the barricades were not appropriate in the new political climate in which unions had to operate.

The public had grown weary of disruption in schools and parents did not yet share the union's sense of outrage at the provisions of the Education Reform Bill.

Referring to the union's policy of "new realism", Mr Jarvis said: "We have to address issues in ways we have not addressed them before. Some who criticize the union have only one alternative: industrial action. Well, it is

not on. There's no alternative to a sustained campaign."

Mr Jarvis went on to warn militant delegates not to judge members' attitudes by the views expressed by the small minority of activists who attended union meetings. He said they should ask themselves why union meetings were so poorly attended.

Mr Jarvis said the International Labour Organization's ruling this week that the Government's decision to suspend teachers' negotiating rights breached the ILO convention meant that Britain was flouting its international obligations.

He called on Mrs Margaret Thatcher to show her respect for international law by accepting the ILO's verdict and restoring teachers' rights.

Earlier, the conference awarded honorary membership of the union to Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the African National Congress, and his wife, Win-

nie, and, in a resumed debate on homosexual and lesbian rights, delegates narrowly defeated a motion which said homosexuals are oppressed by the absence of "positive images of lesbian, gay and bisexual lifestyles within the classroom".

Two other teaching unions holding conferences this week yesterday called for increased steps to deal with discipline in schools.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers was told that some parents actively encouraged disruptive behaviour by their children.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses' Association, meanwhile, voted overwhelmingly at its annual assembly in London that parents should be held legally responsible for their children's behaviour in the classroom. The association is to ask the Government to introduce sanctions to deal with parents of pupils

who disrupt classes or are persistent truants.

The NAS/UWT conference in Blackpool was told that teachers fear they could face court action when they deal with such pupils.

Mr John Mayes, a teacher from Knowsley, Merseyside, said violence towards teachers was increasing but they could not deal with disruptive pupils effectively.

The 1,200 delegates unanimously called on the Government to ensure parents were made legally responsible for the behaviour of their children in schools.

Left-wing opponents of independent schools were accused yesterday of using "fiction" to support their case.

Mr Garry McClellan, chairman of the Independent Schools Association, told its annual conference in Oxford that those who opposed private schooling had a "stereotypical image" of independent schools.

Plessey cancels high-tech GEC deal

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Government attempts to foster collaboration in high-technology industry has been dealt a blow by the withdrawal of Plessey from a £25 million joint development project with GEC on an advanced form of semiconductor.

A White Paper in January stressed the need for industry to collaborate if it is to compete with other countries.

However, Plessey, the electronics company, has announced that it is pulling out of the Department of Trade and Industry initiative with GEC to set up a national production plant for microchips based on gallium arsenide. Electronic devices in that material operate at higher speeds than those based on traditional silicon.

Plessey said yesterday: "We could not see any major gains for the company in going ahead. We have a huge gallium arsenide facility, and it is selling into world markets."

Insiders said that after investigating collaboration with GEC, it became clear that Plessey would lose much of its hard-won lead in the technology, used primarily in defence systems, to its long-standing rival.

No government money was spent during the run-up to full collaboration and building of the plant.

GEC said yesterday that it would have to lay off about 40 scientists from its Hirst research centre at Wembley, north London, and re-deploy another 60.

"We are very disappointed, as we have been a long supporter of these DTI proposals," a spokesman said.

The department said yesterday the Government still hoped that something might be salvaged from the original plans. "There may be scope for some areas of research to continue but the GEC/Plessey project was a very important part of the whole programme," a spokesman said.

Leading article, page 13

DIAMOND SERVICE

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THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.

BRITISH MIDLAND

Blackpool fire deaths

Hotel 'not seen by council'

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Blackpool hotel where five members of the same family, three of them children, died in a fire had not been inspected by council housing and health officials, it was disclosed yesterday.

However, the hotel was inspected by safety officers from the fire brigade three years ago and is understood to have had a fire certificate.

The two adults and three children who died in the fire, at the 24-room Leber Mount Hotel in Dickson Road, close to Blackpool's North Promenade, were all from the manager's family.

Two of the dead, Leon Carradice, aged six, and his sister, Amanda Carradice, aged one, were the children of

the hotel manager, Mr Terry Carradice, aged 27, who was not at the hotel at the time. His wife Victoria, aged 27, and son Tristram, aged seven, were admitted to hospital.

Mr Carradice's brother, Tommy, aged 21, his wife, Patricia, aged 26, and daughter, Anna, aged one, also died.

Mrs Harriet Harman, Labour's social services spokeswoman, called yesterday for an investigation into hotels for the homeless. Housing pressure groups such as Shelter and the Campaign for Bedsit Rights said the deaths were a "massive indictment" of government housing policies.

Mr Leo Pomeroy, Mayor of Blackpool, said a public inquiry might be needed to

examine whether too many people were being accommodated in hostels effectively run by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Uncertainties of definition in housing legislation mean some hotels might be classed as a house in multiple occupation, which removes the obligation of the local authority to inspect it.

Eleven survivors of the fire were still at Blackpool's Victoria Hospital yesterday suffering from the effects of smoke.

Forensic experts were still trying to establish the cause of the fire, although it is believed children playing with matches might have been responsible.

Policeman snubs Kennedy

By John Cooney

For the second day running during a fact-finding trip to Northern Ireland, United States Congressman Joseph Kennedy was involved in an incident yesterday with a member of the security forces.

An armed policeman refused to shake hands with Mr Kennedy at a checkpoint on the border road leading from Londonderry to Co Donegal in the Irish Republic.

On Tuesday, Mr Kennedy was told by a British soldier in West Belfast to go back home after a Roman Catholic priest accompanying him had been asked to open his car boot.

yesterday that it is investigating.

In nationalist areas there has been considerable interest in the visit of Mr Kennedy, a son of the assassinated Senator Robert Kennedy, though Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, is peeved that he has avoided contact with their representatives.

Mr Kennedy, however, is also attracting resentment from the Unionist community.

The Rev William McCrea, MP for Mid Ulster, has complained that it would be sufficient for Mr Kennedy to clean up his own backyard

without interfering in Ulster's affairs.

Mr Kennedy's confrontation with the British soldier was treated as the main story by both newspapers in Boston, his home town, yesterday.

The Boston Herald said Congressman Kennedy "exchanged angry words with British soldiers". The Boston Globe said Mr Kennedy "traded insults with British troops" and claimed that the soldier swore at the Rev Matthew Wallace, the congressman's driver, as he was opening the boot for inspection.

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Actress walks free from drugs charges after legal muddle

By David Cross

Miss Maria Aitken, the actress, walked free from Southwark Crown Court yesterday after Customs and Excise agreed to drop two charges against her of smuggling cocaine into Britain from Peru.

The court was told that no prosecution evidence would be offered because of a legal muddle involving the charges and an earlier case when she was fined £500 plus £100 costs for helping to import 577 milligrams of cocaine worth £180.

Lawyers said the case had cost the taxpayer several thousand pounds. Miss Aitken, who was on legal aid, contributed only £100 towards her costs.

The services of Sir David Napley, the solicitor whose last-minute personal intervention helped to free Miss Aitken and who was in court yesterday, do not come cheaply. A one-hour private consultation with him is likely to cost £250 plus value added tax.

Mr George Carman, QC, for the defence, said that if Miss Aitken's lawyers had taken the steps which "they should and could" have taken during the earlier case "it was unthinkable that there would have been a prosecution".

Miss Ann Mallalieu, QC, for the prosecution, said Customs and Excise had decided not to proceed with the charges to import 997 milligrams of cocaine, worth about £200, because of a difference of opinion between lawyers of the two sides.

Yesterday's hearing was told that Miss Aitken had travelled to Peru last year with 10 envelopes to be used for posting small quantities of cocaine to her for the personal

use of a third party. The envelopes were addressed to her home in Kennington, south-east London, but with fictitious names.

Last August, two letters had been intercepted by customs and found to contain 577 milligrams of cocaine.

A few days after she appeared in court last September a second consignment of two letters, postmarked August 25 or 26 and August 28, were intercepted. They had been posted after Miss Aitken's arrest on August 21 for the first set of charges.

When Miss Aitken was arrested over the second consignment of letters she said: "I understand this matter has already been discussed between my counsel and your solicitors. I have already been punished for my part in this offence."

Miss Mallalieu said that the



Miss Aitken: "delighted and relieved" at outcome.

difference of opinion centred on a discussion between prosecution and defence about whether any request had been made on Miss Aitken's behalf for customs to intercept any future consignments of cocaine from Peru.

Mr Carman said that Miss Aitken had asked her junior counsel and a young solicitor during last September's case to tell Customs and Excise about possible extra consignments of cocaine.

If that message had been properly passed the case would have been dealt with differently, Miss Mallalieu said.

Mr Carman said that junior counsel was in no way to be criticized for lack of integrity. But he added: "The way in which he discharged his mandate, in retrospect, left something to be desired."

He said that the counsel had decided to carry out his instructions by having a private discussion with Miss Nancy Palfreyman, prosecuting for Customs and Excise. There was no dispute that the discussion had taken place but there was a disagreement over what had been decided.

In hindsight, any terms agreed at the meeting should have been put in writing and disclosed in open court.

Judge Anwyl-Davies, QC, who recorded a verdict of not guilty on both charges, said that "it was a thousand pities" that no written record of Miss Aitken's request had been kept. "Whether it is the fault of junior counsel is for others to decide," he added.

Outside the courtroom Miss Aitken hugged her mother, Lady Aitken, and said she was delighted and relieved.

Preparing for the human race



Richard Dolfie, at 82 the oldest London Marathon entrant, limbers up with Shelley Webb, wife of England footballer Neil Webb. If Shelley finishes the race, her husband does the washing up for a month (Photograph: Deniz McNeelance).

By Michael Coleman

Oddballs they might be, but the message coming across from the Mars London Marathon "specials" assembled to meet the Press yesterday was that where there is life there is most certainly hope.

From the teenage brain tumour reject to those in their seventies and eighties, the benefits derived from running, and from this race in particular, radiated.

Andrew Svenssen, engaged in an eight-year struggle against a brain tumour from which his doctor doubted he would survive, saw the race on television

from his wheelchair. "I am going to do that one", he said even though at the time he could hardly move five yards. Svenssen, from Frinton on Sea, Essex, lines up on Sunday.

Fully recovered, he will be running for Ward 18 at Great Ormond Street Hospital where, as he put it, his "messy battle" for life from the age of 12 was fought.

For Richard Dolfie, a bright and perky 82-year-old from Canterbury, the race will be his 12th marathon.

The oldest (by the calendar) woman

will again be Jenny Wood Allen, aged 76, an active councillor from Dundee, whose time of 4 hours 21 minutes 35 seconds set in Dundee three years ago is the fastest ever by a female septuagenarian. Next Sunday is her 15th marathon.

Raymond Hubbard, a physical education teacher from Glasgow, is attempting to complete three marathons in three days: the Belfast Half Marathon next Saturday, which he will run round twice, London next day, and then, by Concorde, for the Boston race on Monday, "all of them under three hours", he said.

Song and dance over move to scrap pews

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Editor

A country vicar's plan to clear the pews from his church so that it can be used for singing and dancing is to be opposed by some of his parishioners at an ecclesiastical court hearing next week.

The Rev John Earp, vicar of St John's, Hartley Wintney, Berkshire, wants to replace the 117-year-old church's fixed wooden pews with portable chairs.

Opponents have formed the St John's Protectors' Group, and are briefing counsel to represent them at the consistory court hearing before the diocesan chancellor, Mr John Spokes, QC.

Mr Earp wants to raise £63,000 to replace pews with chairs to allow for more informal worship.

He said: "It is to allow us greater flexibility in church. I do not like regimented rows of pews. It will enable us to arrange the chairs closer to the altar to make it easier for people to receive Holy Communion."

"But it will also allow more room for singing and dancing. When one is expressing a feeling of great joy one does sometimes want to sing and dance and clap. But that is not the main reason for the plan."

One of the church wardens, Mr Brian Carlisle, has organized opposition to the proposal. After it was first announced in 1986, more than 100 people protested to the Winchester diocesan registrar.

Mr Carlisle said: "We think it is wrong to suddenly change everything in the church. They like worshipping in a lively fashion, clapping their hands and jumping around a bit. It has spoilt the atmosphere and it makes services very difficult."

Shoppers to go on credit files

By Derek Harris

Shoppers wishing to buy on credit will soon be told that details of their transactions may be put on file for inspection by finance companies.

The move comes as controversy continues over the compilation of personal files which retailers use to check the creditworthiness of potential customers.

The Finance Houses Association is trying to reduce the chances of an individual being given more credit than he or she can hope to pay back.

It estimates that 30 per cent of those seeking credit are not admitting to the credit suppliers they have accounts outstanding.

Increasing computerization of personal files has offered the association's members more chance to vet potential customers.

Mr Ray Hazlehurst, outgoing chairman of the association, said: "It means we can protect people against themselves". The finance companies could reduce the proportion of bad debts which are running at between 1 and 1.5 per cent of sales.

The FHA has been under pressure to ensure that warnings are given because of recent legal provisions on data protection administered by Mr Eric Howe, the Registrar of Data Protection.

Mr Hazlehurst said: "It is not going to be buried in the small print. A proper and adequate warning will be given. If customers do not want details to be placed on file then they may go perhaps to a trader with a more cavalier attitude towards the extending of credit."

Nearly 40 European retailers, including Storehouse and Selfridges, are beginning to rebel at the high cost of credit card fees charged by banks, and are not prepared to accept debit card charges based on a percentage of the sale.

They believe that charges for Eftpos, the electronic funds transfer at the point of sale, should be largely borne by the banks.

Why maintenance orders go unpaid

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Nearly half of all wives' and children's maintenance orders processed by magistrates' courts remain unpaid for several years and are of such low sums that it is pointless for courts to make them, according to findings of a new survey published this week.

In addition, attempts to enforce orders are largely futile, mainly because wives are reluctant to seek enforcement or to sign a complaint form when told of arrears by the court, the survey found.

This stems from the wife's fear of violence or further deterioration in the relationship with the former husband, a particular concern where children are still young.

The findings of the survey, conducted by Dr Susan Edwards and Miss Ann Halpern, researcher and senior lecturer in law at Ealing College of Higher Education, are published in the April issue of *Family Law*.

On the basis of the findings, which confirm earlier studies, they conclude that while many women and children in theory are receiving maintenance payments, this is just a "paper

entitlement" and the reality is that many instead are receiving state support.

Maintenance orders are not the best way of providing for a former wife's financial security and it would be better for courts to aim for a "clean break", they say.

The survey of 346 maintenance orders registered for payment at a West London magistrates' court found that out of the 121 orders which included payment to wives, 73 per cent were for £7 a week or less.

It also found the sums of money in arrears were large. Of the orders studied, 269 did not have an attachment of earnings order by which sums are deducted regularly from wages. Of these, 55 per cent were in arrears; 43 per cent involving sums of up to £1,000 and 57 per cent sums of £1,000 to £11,000.

Reasons for non-payment include inability to pay, the impact of other commitments and plain refusal. Many men and also solicitors feel that if access to children is restricted or denied by the mother then "there is a moral justification not to pay."

Court told of Tennant arrest in police swoop

Charles Tennant, the eldest son of Lord Glenconner, was discovered in an Edinburgh flat during a police drugs squad raid, a court was told yesterday.

The city's Sheriff Court was told that officers armed with a sledge hammer tried to enter a second floor flat at Ritchie Place, Edinburgh on August 31 last year.

Det Constable Henry McAdam said that when he and a colleague eventually got in they found four people standing in the living room "trying to look innocent as if nothing had happened and surprised that we were even in the house."

Mr Tennant, aged 31, is

charged with three others of obstructing police and attempting to destroy evidence.

The court heard that no trace of drugs was found on any of the accused but a knife had cannabis resin on it.

Mr Tennant, of The Glenn, Innerleithen, Peebles; Edith Caldwell, aged 31, of Marchmont Road; Clarissa Wynne, aged 23, of Woodfield Avenue and George Clyde, aged 39, of Ardmillan Terrace, all Edinburgh, deny contravening the Misuse of Drugs Act 1974.

Sheriff Kenneth Ross said he would give his decision today.

Lordship sold for £87,000

By Ronald Faux

Stratford, my Lords, is safe; the desire for lofty title among avaricious Americans defeated by the might of sterling.

In other words, the lordship of Shakespeare's birthplace was secured by an Englishman yesterday when it came up as lot 42 at an auction of lordships of the manner by Strutt and Parker in Painters Hall, London.

An anonymous bidder from the Stratford-upon-Avon area, represented by a Scottish agent, paid a record £87,000 for the title which manorial specialists believed would be bought by an American bidder.

Mr Robert Smith, managing director of Manorial Research, said before the sale: "I

do not think the value of the dollar has anything to do with it. If you are rich, you're rich."

He thought Stratford would go to America. In the event not a single American bid was made.

However, competition was fierce and the price soared £34,000 beyond the best previous price for a lordship and far beyond the expectations of auctioneer, Mr Ray Knappett.

The mystery buyer was said to come from within 30 miles of Stratford-upon-Avon and to be both a great admirer of Shakespeare and keen that the lordship should remain in England in the care of someone who would appreciate its intrinsic value. It was bought predominantly for historical

and Shakespearean interests, said the representative.

The lordship, which carries no material or ceremonial benefits, was offered on behalf of Lord Sackville, a relation of the Bloomsbury Vita Sackville-Wests. It predated the Norman Conquest by 300 years and had documents going back to 1301.

At Domesday the lordship was rated for land tax and 14½ hides. There was a mill yielding an annual 10 shillings.

The thought was that the new lord would forgo the hides and eels but Mr Knappett was impressed by the scale of the bidding which showed that lordships were more than holding their own against inflation.

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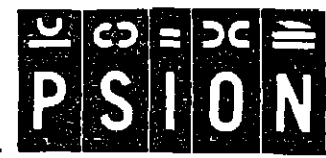
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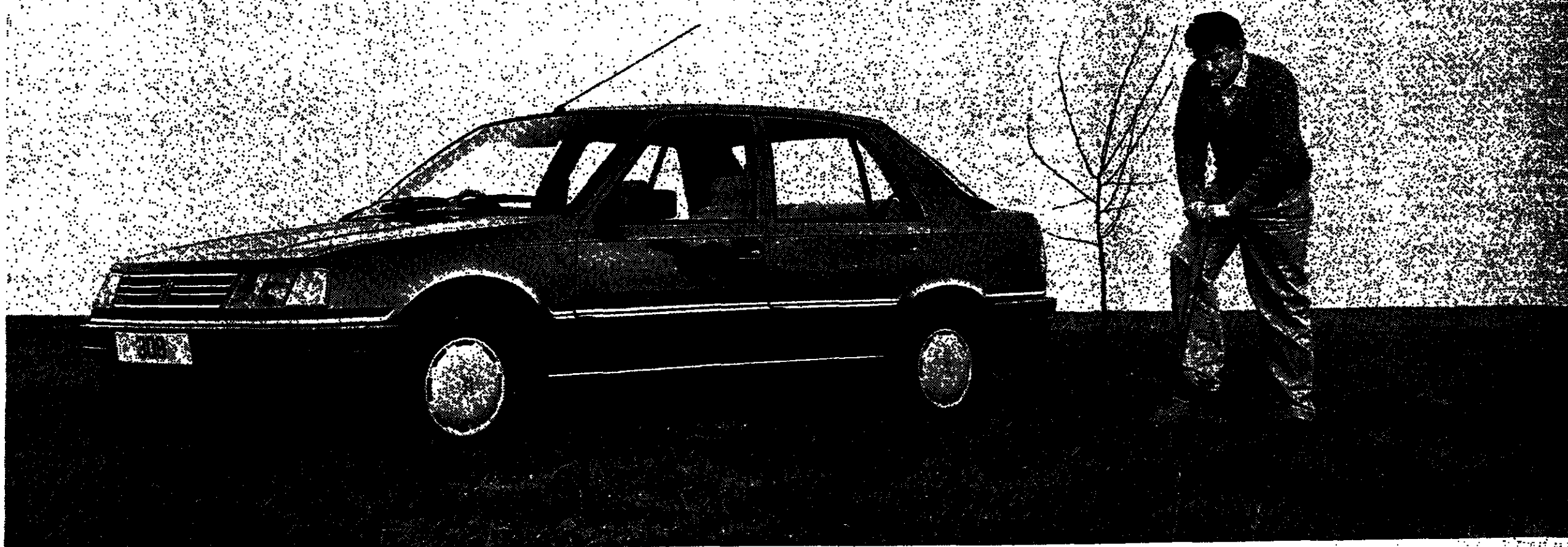
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**Trag
unless**

A devastating indictment of standards of safety for minutes to them at the House of Lords yesterday, as the King's Cross disaster continues.

Things would go tragically wrong again unless there was a thorough revision of safety policies. Mr Roger Handberg, O.C. counsel to the in-

He was opening the second part of the festival in a program which will look into the water issues underlying the disaster in which 31 people died November.

The good safety record of the Underground had led to a false sense of security, he said. The "things have gone seriously wrong in recent years and they will go tragically wrong again if there is not a new and bolder appraisal of the situation."

6 Standards, from the highest to the lowest levels in the Underground, have been allowed to slip ●

Mr Henderson said that standards had slipped despite a high number of small fires in the Underground. He said that one set of figures had shown 1,245 fires had occurred in 1992 and that the most conservative reports showed 1,555 in the last three years. 182 of them were

He also declined the London Regional Transport but refused to provide the

QC recon

By Staff Reporters
Safely standards on the London Underground have dropped so appalling that home independent inspectors must be made of the police. Mr Henderson told the court yesterday.

He recommended seven days after reading thousands of documents to select the Trans-Siberian.

"London Regional Transport and London Underground are to be kept on their feet, and indifference and apathy not to prevail there must be third party involvement," Mr Henderson said.

He said that the national estimate needed to be "less intrusive and more timely."

It had suffered from a shortage of staff and without manpower was provided no new skills acquired on the Health and Safety Executive should take over a supervisory role as it had done with the army inspectorate.

Mr Henderson said he wanted to ensure that "the loss of 31 lives in 1987 would not be a perpetual and not a moment impact on the..."

Genetic Salmonella

By _____

Scientists have genetically engineered a vaccine that protects against the food poisoning organism salmonella. Since it has endowed immunity, the genetically engineered organism does not

By using another technique, scientists are altering microbes. The scientists have deleted the gene from the cholera organism that controls production of its lethal toxin.

Scientists are now testing the laboratory model to see if it can be used as their altered model to promote immu-

progress on research with the new types of live vaccines created by genetic engineering, which will soon be available from the drug industry, was discussed.

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...said it was de-
...to overcome anxiety

Intelligent
By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent
Interview by...

London, promises to revolutionize the healing and cooling of the body by scientists at Imperial College, Mino G.

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King's Cross disaster inquiry

'Tragedy will strike again unless standards improve'

By Rodney Cowton and Tony Dawe

A devastating indictment of standards of safety and attitudes to them at all levels of London Underground was delivered yesterday at the King's Cross disaster inquiry.

Things would go "tragically wrong" again unless there was a thorough revision of safety policies, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, said.

He was opening the second part of the formal investigation, which will look into the wider issues underlying the disaster in which 31 people died last November.

The good safety record of the Underground had led to a false sense of security, he said. But "things have gone seriously wrong in recent years and they will go tragically wrong again if there is not a root and branch appraisal of safety in stations."

Standards, from the highest to the lowest levels in the Underground, have been allowed to slip

Mr Henderson said that standards had slipped despite a high number of small fires on the Underground. He said that one set of figures suggested 1,246 fires had occurred in 1980 and that the most conservative reports indicated 1,535 in the last three years, 182 of them on escalators.

He also disclosed that London Regional Transport had refused to provide the

Treasury Solicitor with minutes of board meetings which would show to what extent the board had considered questions of safety.

Mr Henderson said the King's Cross fire "arose because of a combination of circumstances, not because of an isolated mistake."

"Standards, from the highest to the lowest levels in London Underground, have been allowed to slip."

"At the highest level there was insufficient regard to safety in stations."

"There was a lack of liaison, proper holding of meetings and proper calling to account of those responsible for the operational system."

At middle management levels, there was "no appropriate impetus from above" on safety matters. Inadequacies in training, equipment, control and management of stations were tolerated and no planning or drill in the event of fire was required by them.

"Manning and cleaning levels at the stations must be open to serious question. The minimum nature of the work, possibly the levels of remuneration, the lack of drills or sufficient mechanical aids predisposed the staff in extremely uncongenial circumstances, and very adverse conditions, to less than satisfactory performance."

The fire is thought to have started in grease, dust and other rubbish lodged in the running track of the escalator and been ignited possibly by a dropped match. Mr Henderson said that the risk of fire on the running track was re-

cognized by London Underground but cleaning it was "a difficult and unappealing job which, because of its character, was never carried out."

The London Underground rule book disclosed that a predominant concern was the railway, not the stations. Mr Henderson said: "That is a philosophy that is perfectly understandable. But it may be that safety in stations has taken second place to safety on or near the track."

We are aware of no objective by senior management to ensure safety was given high priority

Travelling on the Underground had been an exceedingly safe form of public transport. Few people had lost their lives using it, and only a handful by fire, and none, before King's Cross, had lost their lives from an escalator fire. For this London Regional Transport deserved proper credit.

He said that wooden escalators of the kind on which the fire began had been built in the first half of this century and had shown remarkable durability, possibly carrying passengers over a distance of 35 million miles.

There was a propensity for dust, grease and debris to collect on the running tracks under the escalator and catch fire. But good maintenance and relevant training had in the past ensured that the machines were not prone to dangerous fire.

The safety record had led to a false sense of security. It was easy to believe that because a big fire had not occurred before, it would not happen. Such a philosophy was understandable but dangerous, and a real enemy of good management.

There had been a lack of a positive approach to safety, Mr Henderson said: "We are aware of no objective or self-critical analysis by senior management to ensure that safety of operations was given high priority in decision making."

It appeared from reading all the documents that non-allocation of resources had contributed to a lack of safety at King's Cross.

"What has been lacking has been the correct reception and assessment of risks and not the funds. Aids are available and can be afforded."

Turning to the request by the Treasury Solicitor for minutes of LRT's board meetings to provide evidence of consideration of safety matters at that level, he said there had been almost no documentary evidence of this.

He asked LRT to reconsider its decision not to supply the minutes, and said if they were not forthcoming, the conclusion to be drawn "will be a melancholy one."

Mr Henderson said it seemed likely that because of the lack of analysis of safety matters by the board, it could not have appreciated the increasing frequency and danger of fires on escalators in recent years.

Call for safety overhaul

QC recommends tougher inspections

By Staff Reporters

Safety standards on the London Underground have dropped so appallingly that better independent inspection must be made of the network, Mr Henderson told the inquiry yesterday.

He recommended several changes after reading thousands of documents collected by the Treasury Solicitor.

"If London Regional Transport and London Underground are to be kept on their toes, and indifference and inertia not to prevail, there must be third party oversight," Mr Henderson said.

He said that the railway inspectorate needed to be "more intrusive and more exacting."

It had suffered from a shortage of staff and either more manpower was provided and new skills acquired or the Health and Safety Executive should take over a supervisory role as it had done with the factory inspectorate.

Mr Henderson said he wanted to ensure that "the loss of 31 lives in 1987 would make a perpetual and not a transient impact on those



Mr Roger Henderson, QC, criticized safety standards on the Underground.

He recommended that London Regional Transport should be made more accountable to the public and should establish better safety systems. He said that at station level, continuous control needed to be exercised by "authoritative and trained staff."

He said that one thing missing at King's Cross was a "true control room" and that there needed to be an opera-

tions room which would allow staff to open water sprinkler valves by remote control, to notice smoke on television monitors, to open gates at a distance and to make public and private announcements.

Mr Henderson also called for the installation of more equipment to detect fires and for better staff training in safety and evacuation drills. London Transport had to reconsider "the complement and calibre of staff necessary to maintain safety," Mr Henderson said.

Other recommendations the QC made included the immediate removal of wooden components from escalators, better maintenance of all surviving wooden escalators, the removal of combustible materials including where necessary false ceilings and highly combustible paint, and any other structural alterations needed in the interests of safety.

He also said there should be more determined enforcement of safety measures such as the smoking ban and more reliable recording and analysis of all Underground fires. "I doubt if the safety of

passengers can be achieved in complex stations without a substantial reliance on automatic prevention devices," Mr Henderson said.

He disclosed that two recommendations made after the first serious escalator fire on the Underground in 1944 had been enforced promptly but later forgotten.

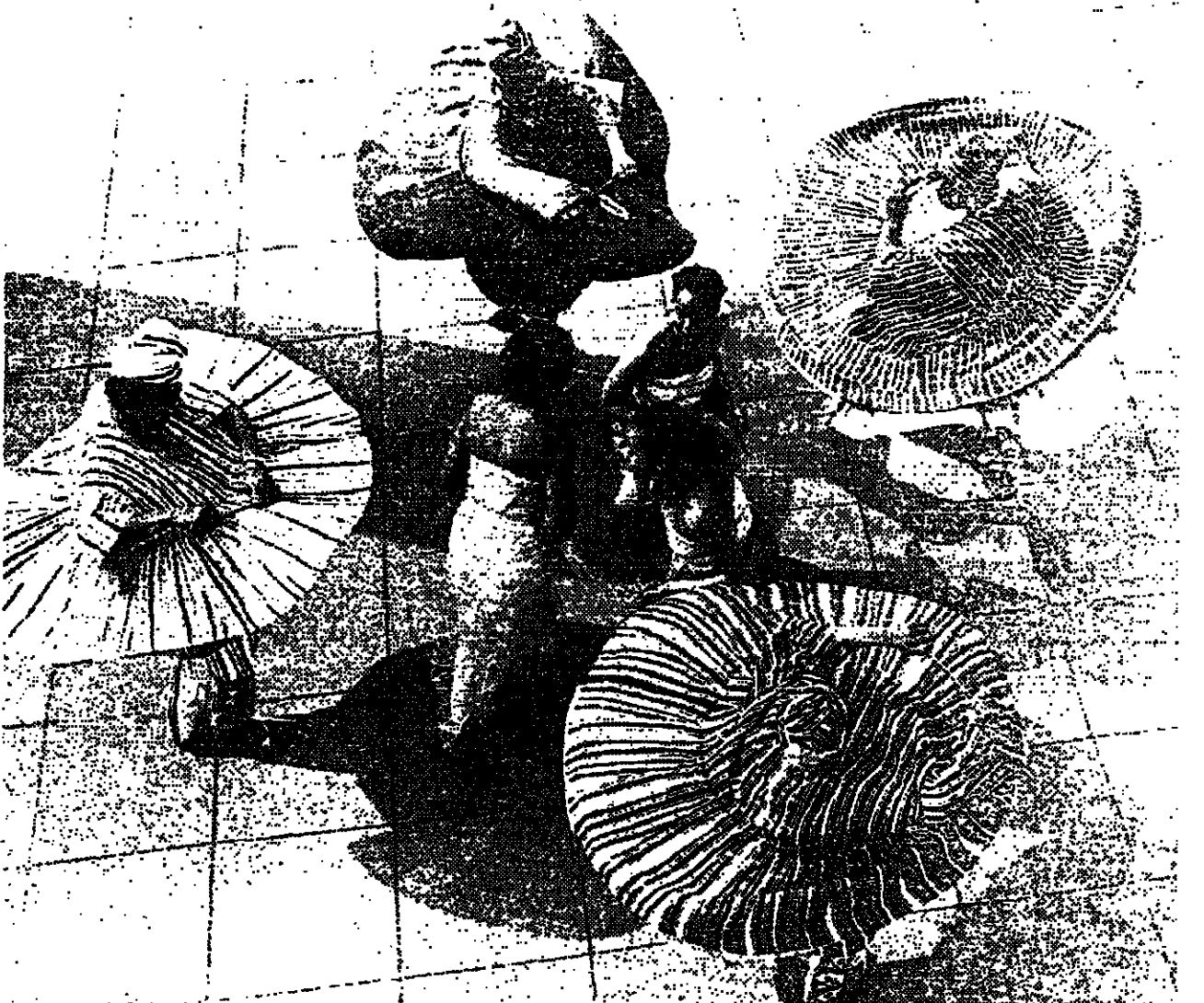
An inquiry had led to more frequent cleaning of escalators and to the employment of more cleaners, but in recent years numbers had dropped and cleaning became sporadic.

Mr Henderson also said that the water fog system had been introduced after the 1944 fire and had been used every fortnight to damp down escalators to prevent smouldering. But by the 1980s the fire prevention role of the water fog system had disappeared.

He said there was evidence that the water fog system at King's Cross had not been used or tested for some years.

Proposals to install smoke detectors in the Piccadilly Line escalator shaft where last year's fire started had been abandoned in 1966 because of the cost, which was then estimated at £450.

Dance to a distant African beat



Some of the members of Adzido, Britain's leading African dance ensemble, taking advantage of April sunshine yesterday to rehearse their steps on the terrace of the Festival Hall on the South Bank in preparation for their show "Coming Home" which they will perform at the adjacent Queen Elizabeth Hall tomorrow (Photograph: Peter Trivnor).

Information technology

Programme 'fails to deliver'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A government programme set up in 1983 to develop Britain's information technology industry has failed to fulfil its potential, according to the independent National Audit Office.

The office yesterday drew attention to a continuing shortage of graduates with the right skills that was hampering the development of information technology.

A critical report stated that such technology "is essential to the competitiveness of virtually all manufacturing and service industries, and has a fundamental impact on society."

Government and industry had injected around £150 million into the so-called Alvey Programme for Advanced Technology by April last year, the report disclosed.

The programme is intended to make British information technology competitive through collaborative research

projects involving industry and academics.

The report acknowledged the programme has commissioned much research, supported around 300 projects and encouraged much greater co-operation, but it also disclosed areas of concern.

More had been spent on administration, infrastructure and academic research than originally intended. Exploitation of Alvey-funded research had so far failed to match expectations.

The office says participants in the programme should be allowed only one year, not three, to exploit the results of their research.

The Alvey directorate, operating from the Department of Trade and Industry, had done too little to encourage collaboration between industry, academics and research organizations. There had been delays and withdrawals from the programme.

Participation in projects was dominated by five large companies with small firms barely getting a look in.

Appraisal of potential projects by the Alvey directorate was too slow — in eight of 42 projects examined more than nine months elapsed between receipt of final proposals and offers to contractors.

Monitoring of projects was in some cases very poor. Financial control and funding of projects was unsatisfactory. It took four years to introduce integrated computers.

The office reported that skills shortages had been reported in more than half of the 42 projects investigated. This had led to substantial delays, withdrawal of partners, and the employment of foreign experts or an overseas university in three projects.

The Alvey Programme for Advanced Information Technology (National Audit Office: Department of Trade and Industry: Stationery Office, £5.20).

History of heart risk researched

By Thomson Prentice

The reason why some men whose parents both died of heart disease are at high risk is being investigated.

A study funded by the British Heart Foundation of almost 8,000 middle-aged men in Britain has found that those with such family history have more than four times the normal risk of heart attack.

"There appears to be a familial risk factor, environmental or genetic, which is as yet unexplained," Professor Gerald Shaper, director of the continuing study, said yesterday.

The latest results show that a middle-aged man whose father has died from heart trouble is at twice the risk of heart attack, compared with a man whose father is still alive.

Professor Shaper said: "If both parents have died of heart trouble the risk of heart attack is increased more than fourfold."

Share schemes popular with workers

By Roland Rudd

Employee share ownership schemes are proving more popular with British workers who believe it is their right to own part of their company and build up a useful nest egg for the future.

In a study of a factory in the north Midlands employing 380 people, with just under 30 per cent members of a union, the *British Journal of Industrial Relations* found that 69 per cent believed they had a right to own part of their company and more than a half

thought the scheme would help them feel part of the company.

Workers are more likely to join share ownership schemes if they are seen to offer financial benefits. However, nearly a half believe they would have to wait too long before they could make money and nearly a third feared that no matter how hard they worked it would not affect the share price.

Workers were more interested if they thought the firm was a fair employer. The survey took place during the

months allowed for employees to decide whether they wanted to join the scheme. Some 36 per cent thought they would join.

Although only a quarter thought the scheme would build up team spirit and only 18 per cent thought it would reduce feelings of "them and us", 45 per cent thought the scheme would make the company more successful.

British Journal of Industrial Relations (Basil Blackwell Ltd, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1JF; by subscription).

Genetically engineered organisms

Salmonella vaccine created

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Scientists have genetically engineered a vaccine that protects against the food poisoning organism salmonella. Once it has endowed immunity, the genetically engineered organism destroys itself.

By using another technique for altering microbes, the biologists have deleted the gene from the cholera organism that controls production of its lethal toxin.

The scientists are now testing in the laboratory oral vaccines that use the altered organisms as their active ingredient to promote immunity.

Progress on research with these new types of live vaccines created by genetic engineering, which will soon be available from the drug industry, was discussed yesterday at the first international conference on the release of genetically engineered micro-organisms (GEMs).

Describing the self-destruct mechanism built into the salmonella vaccine, Professor Roy Curtiss said it was designed to overcome anxiety

that persistent "new life forms", created in the laboratory, could carry risks when they were released into the environment.

Professor Curtiss, from the University of Washington in St Louis, regards the use of live strains of bacteria for making oral vaccines as an intentional release of micro-organisms into the environment.

He said since genetic engineering research started 14 years ago, scientists and their adversaries had made endless lists of possible risks if a "new life form" created in the laboratory should escape and run wild.

They had gradually reached agreement that most of the speculated harmful consequences were "pretty much figments of our collective imaginations".

Looking at possible future uses for the engineering of organisms, Dr Julian Davies, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, said the principal commercial goals of genetic engineering so far had been the development of microbes

as "factories" to produce large amounts of otherwise rare proteins, such as insulin, interferon and interleukin.

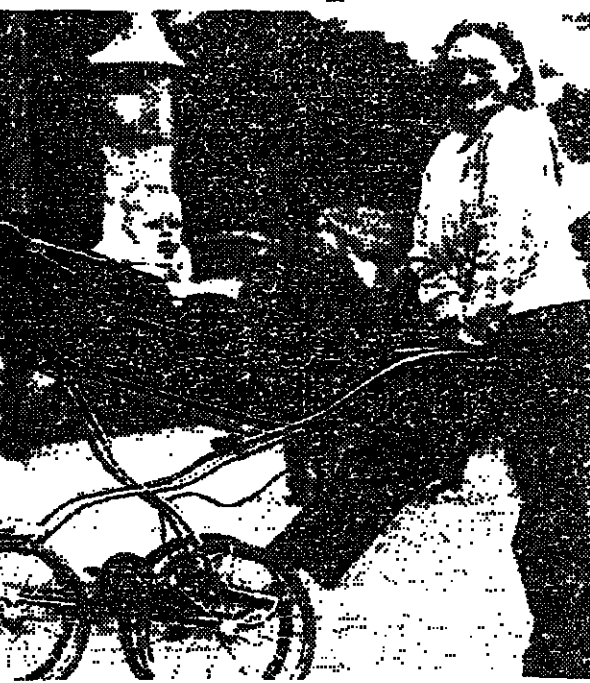
Considerable effort had gone into improving the ability of some microbes to produce antibiotics, vitamins or amino acids.

In addition, the production by microbes of enzymes for food processing and other industrial applications had become the target of extensive genetic engineering research.

However, Dr Davies said engineered organisms were made under strict containment. The organisms themselves were ill-fitted for survival outside the laboratory.

Comparing the genetically engineered organism to the light bulb, Professor John Beringer, of Bristol University, a member of the Government's regulatory committee for the release of organisms, suggested that experience with traditional processes showed that very large numbers of microbes could be released into the environment without causing harm.

Motorized pram ban



Mrs Burton with Sebastian and her motorized pram

The Department of Transport has banned a mother from using a motorized pram in the streets of Exmouth, Devon.

When Mrs Bernadette Burton, aged 28, became breathless pushing her 18-month-old son, Sebastian, in a heavy pram up the hills round her home, her brother, David,

fitted an electric engine from an old Sinclair CS car.

But Department of Transport officials said the motorized pram did not comply with the regulations. "The only vehicle allowed on the pavement is one for disabled persons", a spokesman said.

Warning to women smokers

By Our Science Correspondent

Women in unskilled jobs who smoke run twice the risk of lung cancer as professional women, a health expert warned yesterday.

The warning came from Sir Richard Doll, acting head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology and clinical trials unit, and coincides with the publication of statistics on smoking in Britain.

The overall picture is of a decline in smoking among men since the mid-1970s and among better-off women. But experts are concerned about the upward trend in young women, and those in lower-paid jobs.

"It is vital that this particular group of women heed the risk they are running", Sir Richard said.

Girls aged between 16 and 19 are smoking more than a few years ago, and many start the habit earlier in life. The proportion of adult women who started to smoke before they were 16 rose from six to 15 per cent between 1965 and 1985.

British smokers consume more than 80,000 tonnes of cigarettes a year, equal to 3 lbs of tobacco for every man, woman and child. Male smokers average 130 cigarettes a week, against 110 for women.

Researchers writing in the *British Journal of Addiction* say the belief that men are giving up smoking more than women is a myth, because figures do not take into account men who switch from cigarettes to cigars and pipes. *UK Smoking Statistics* (Oxford University Press, £35).

"There were only two of us aboard the jumbo, and the pilot steered with his legs."

This was not one of your common or garden 747's, but a fully grown Indian elephant, and we were travelling at an average height of ten rather than 35,000 feet.

We were at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam, one of India's 220 wildlife parks and sanctuaries. Here you can view everything from exotic birds (at Bharapuri) to the rare Asian lion (at Sasan Gil) So a trip to India can truly be a walk on the wild side.

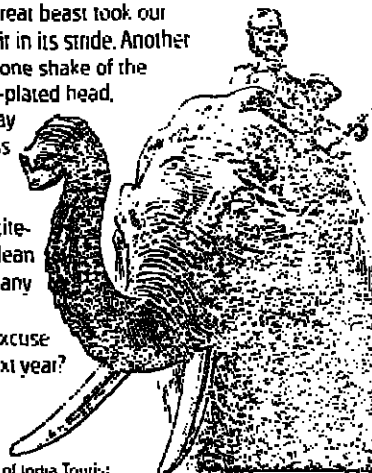
Or, as in our case, a ride: 16 foot tall elephant grass soon puts a stop to any thought of walking. Kachanga is famed for its one-horned rhinos which, at 3 tonnes and fearfully unpredictable, are not to be taken lightly.

After two hours travelling in long grass we heard the rumble that announced the presence of a grazing rhino. Cautiously our Mahout edged our mount closer. The long grass parted and there it stood, a white egret rising from its back in alarm.

Though its single great horn pointed malevolently towards us, the great beast took our unannounced visit in its stride. Another tussock of grass, one shake of the immense armour-plated head, and it swung away into the long grass.

We breathed again. Then both realised, in our excitement, that we'd clean forgotten to take any photographs.

What better excuse for going back next year?



To: The Government of India Tourist Office, 7 Con Street, London E14 2AE. Tel 01-457 3677 8. Prestel 2442500. Please send me more details of holidays in India.

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indian
ONLY 9 HOURS AWAY.

'Intelligent' windows may help office conditions

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

An invention by scientists at Imperial College, London, promises to revolutionize the heating and cooling of offices and bring comfort to office workers.

Professor Mino Green and colleagues in the college's electrical engineering department have found a way of making "intelligent" windows, the transparency of which can be altered by a switch.

Architects have long dreamt of the

possibility of making their buildings change physically to suit weather conditions. However, until now the technology needed has been too costly.

In work which is at least two years ahead of the rest of the world, Professor Mino has found a way of producing large areas of "electrochromic" glass, where colour and transparency can be altered electrically.

Two sheets of glass are used to sandwich a layer of two compounds,

lithium and tungsten trioxide. A small positive voltage applied to the transparent pane forces the two layers to mix.

Unlike rival liquid crystal technology, the panes can be made virtually any size, and the colour change stays when the current is switched off. They are made clear again by simply reversing the voltage.

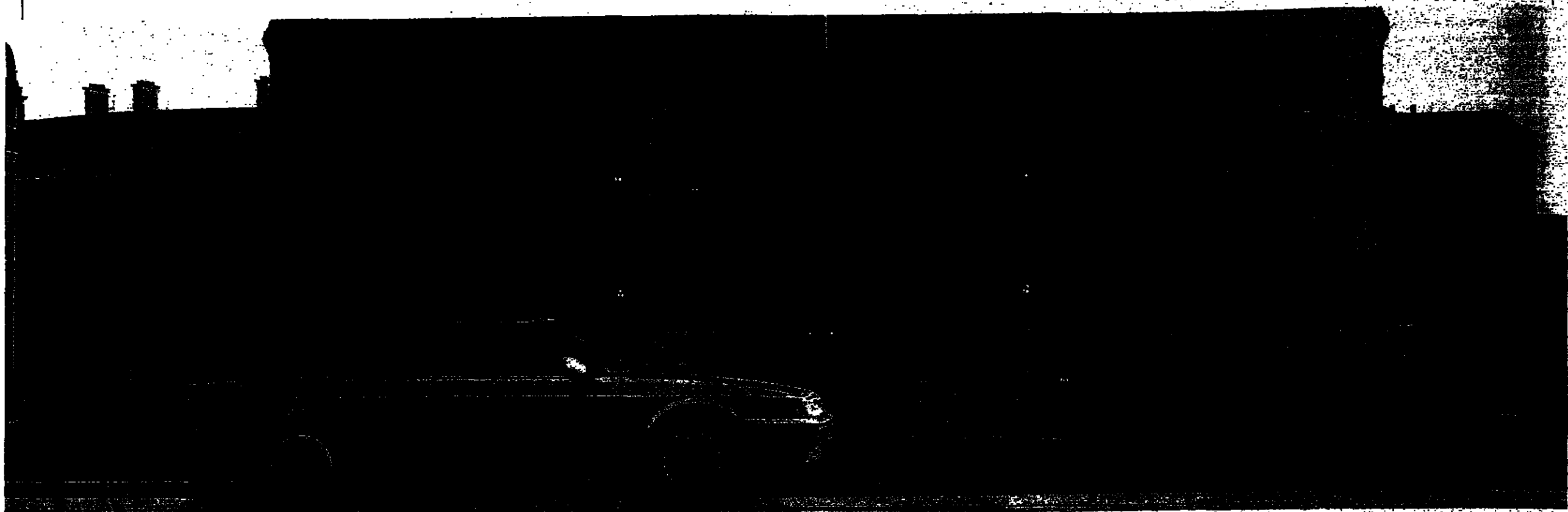
That is a significant advantage over photochromic materials such as that used in sunglasses, where colour changes cannot be finely tuned.

Used as windows in offices, the electrochromic process would help to prevent buildings from overheating in summer and losing too much heat in winter.

Buildings which are air-conditioned would also benefit considerably, however, through the reduced costs for heating and cooling.

The research has been backed by the British Technology Group, which seeks commercial applications for research carried out in British universities.

THE NEW ROVER 827 SLi. (TELL TCHAIKOVSKY THE NEWS.)

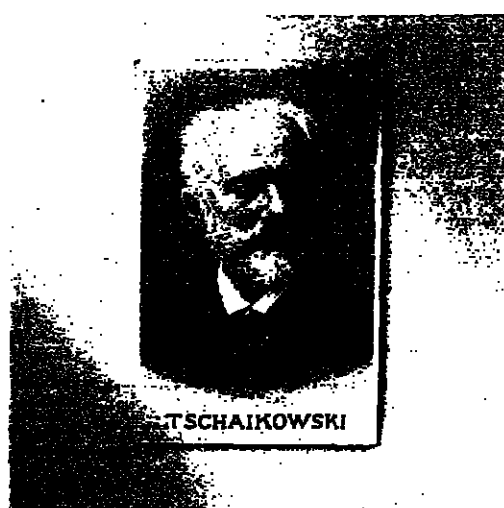


The Royal Albert Hall. National monument and home of some of the finest acoustics in the world. Be it a Mozart quartet or the 1812 Overture, you'll hear music in its most natural, undistorted form.

And that's just how we wanted you to hear music in the new 827 SLi. So our Rover designers listened closely to the experts. The back-room boys at ELAC. (Electro Acoustic Industries.)

They explained how constraints on acoustic performance can be minimised by the exact matching of frequency response to the interior characteristics of the car. And further reduced by intelligent speaker location. So our designers examined the car.

And out went any thought of fitting tweeters in the dash top. The high notes get reflected off the inside of the windscreen, causing dispersal and confusion.



Petr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. 1840-1893. When it came to acoustics, not an easy man to please.

And in went tweeters just forward of the door handles. The mid-range door speakers were angled to the listener's head, not his feet. While two 6½" 40 watt coaxial units were mounted in the rear woofer system.

The result? A nigh on perfect stereo image in an executive saloon. And the perfect accompaniment to the lively performance of the car's new 24 valve 2.7 litre engine.

It will speed you from 0-60 in a very spirited 7.6 seconds.* And propel you through that crucial mid-range with almost ungentlemanly keenness.

While the four speed electronic automatic box allows you to switch from dynamic sports mode to effortless cruising for mile upon mile of whisper-quiet motorway driving. Cosseted, naturally, in traditional Rover luxury.

The new eight-speaker Rover 827 SLi. Roll over, Beethoven.



CAR SHOWN: ROVER 827 SLi. PRICE £17,495. ROVER 800 RANGE FROM £12,495 TO £17,395. ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, EXCLUDING NUMBER PLATES AND DELIVERY. *MANUFACTURER'S DATA: FIGURE QUOTED IS FOR MANUAL TRANSMISSION. AVAILABLE AS NO-COST OPTION ON 827 SLi AND SLi. FOR FULL DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST ROVER DEALER RING 01-300-0200. NATIONWIDE CAR RENTAL RESERVATIONS THROUGH BRITISH CAR RENTAL TEL. 0203-77223. TAX FREE SALES INFORMATION 021-475-2301 EXT 224.

WORLD
Amman
Shultz i
Amman (Reuters) - Jordan
yesterday blocked out an
State. Mr George Shultz.
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Protest in
Dakar - With a state of em
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MacDonald writes.
Parliamentary police and so
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A homeless
Nairobi (AFP) - One billion
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Gulf attack
Moscow (AFP) - Iran and Iraq
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Four Iraqi missiles fell on re
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missiles at the southern port

Soviet-style
Moscow (AP) - The new
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Povoda attack on its entire
comment on the criticism, 69

Battles b
from Juan Carlos Garmacio
west Beirut
from the slums of west Beirut
in the Israeli frontlines in
southern Lebanon. Huge col
nated portraits of Ayatollah
Khomeini and Mr Nabih
Biri, the leader of the main
Muslim Arab militia, proclaim
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Muslims.

Year before has such a
change proved so violently
staying as in the past two
day. Fierce fighting between
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columns backed by Syria
to killed 12 people since
Monday.

At least 30 others were

Ind

Carlucci s

by Frank Carlucci, the US
Ambassador. Yesterday
expressed Washington's con
between India and Pakistan.
On the point of leaving
city of Islamabad after a
series of meetings with Indian
leaders, including the Prime
Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.
He said the subject of
cross-border activities in Pun
jab came up in his
speech, adding that the
US would do all it could to
bring about a relaxation of

We have suggested a series
of confidence-building mea
sures," Mr Carlucci said. "We
are moving our moves towards
peace."
The Indian Government is
currently carrying on a cam
paign to persuade world and
regional leaders that much of the
problem in Punjab is to be
solved on the activities of the
separatists.
The Prime Minister himself
has been involved in the past to
bring a role in the turmoil
of the north Indian
state of Punjab. Mr Sarjit
Singh, Punjab's Chief Min
ister, also used to
the considerable play of the

WORLD ROUNDUP

Amman anger at Shultz interview

Amman (Reuter) — Jordanian newspapers and television yesterday blasted out an interview with the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, in a gesture apparently reflecting official anger at his approach to Middle East peace.

The newspapers attacked Mr Shultz bitterly for pro-Israeli remarks he made in the interview in Amman and refused to carry the text. State-run television cancelled plans to broadcast it. Political sources said the uproar reflected disappointment and anger felt by Jordanian leaders over the current American approach to Middle East peace.

● JERUSALEM: Mr Shultz left Israel yesterday determined to press on with his peace initiative despite the apparent lack of progress in his talks so far with leaders here and in Amman and Damascus (David Bernstein writes).

He conceded before leaving for Cairo that differences between the sides "have not been substantially narrowed."

Shamir profile, page 10

Drugs coup by US

New York — The US authorities celebrated a moral victory against the drug barons of Central America yesterday when Senator Juan Maria Ballesteros, one of the most wanted alleged cocaine traffickers in the region and a reputed billionaire, was flown handcuffed to New York from his native Honduras (Charles Bremner writes).

A spokesman for the Marshals' Service said that "this is one of the most significant fugitive arrests in recent years" after the agency negotiated it outside Senator Majia's villa in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. His emergence as a visible figure in Honduras life, despite the country's close alliance with Washington, had become a symbol of US impotence in the war against the cocaine cartels.

Fears for Tutu's life

Fears of a possible attempt to assassinate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the primate of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa, are believed to be behind an appeal the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has made to leaders of the Anglican Communion throughout the world (Clifford Longley writes). Dr Runcie has asked them to pray for Archbishop Tutu's safety on Ascension Day, May 12.

Protest in Senegal

Dakar — With a state of emergency and nightly curfew still in place, the newly elected Senegalese National Assembly met for the first time yesterday amid protests from the 17 opposition deputies at the imprisonment of their leader, Mr Abdoulaye Wade, and five other party members (Susan MacDonald writes).

Parliamentary police and soldiers patrolled the poorer areas of Dakar as President Diouf announced the formation of the new Government. Mr Wade was arrested on February 29 and charged with plotting insurrection.

A homeless billion

Delhi (AFP) — One billion people, a fifth of the world's population, are homeless or live in slums — and the number will rise to three billion within 12 years unless governments make a number of fundamental changes in their existing approach to the problem, said an official summary of a document at a UN conference here on shelter. Some 400 delegates to the six-day UN Commission on Human Settlements meeting are to discuss global strategies for shelter up to the turn of the century and make a submission to the General Assembly this year.

Gulf attacks kill 34

Nicosia (AFP) — Iran and Iraq yesterday unleashed a spate of air and missile attacks on one another's cities, reportedly killing at least 34 civilians.

Four Iraqi missiles fell on residential areas of Teheran, the Iranian news agency Irna reported, and Iran fired five missiles at the southern port of Basra.

Soviet-style apology

Moscow (AP) — The newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* yesterday appeared to atone for the "sin" of publishing a letter defending Josef Stalin by reprinting an article by *Pravda* criticizing it. The paper published the unusual *Pravda* attack on its entire second page but made no comment on the criticism, first published the day before.

Battles between Lebanon Shias claim 12 lives

From Juan Carlos Gumacio west Beirut

From the slums of west Beirut to the Israeli frontline in southern Lebanon, huge coloured portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini and Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the mainstream Amal militia, proclaim the religious and political unity of Lebanon's one million Shia Muslims.

Never before has such a message proved so violently deluding as in the past two days. Fierce fighting between the pro-Iranian *Hezbollah*, or Party of God, and Amal militiamen backed by Syria has killed 12 people since Tuesday.

At least 30 others were

reported wounded in uninterupted machine-gun and rocket battles in and around the town of Nabatea and in villages near Tyre, where the rival Shia Muslim forces have long been vying for influence.

Fully aware of the potential threats to Iranian and Syrian interests in Lebanon, Lebanese Muslim leaders were struggling yesterday to stop the bloodshed. Their calls failed to bring about a ceasefire.

Street fighting paralyzed all activities in Nabatea and there were only sketchy details of the situation on the ground. "It was crazy," a Nabatea resident told reporters shortly after he reached Sidon yes-

terday. "No one dared even to look out of their windows."

According to reports from the south, one of the worst battles was being fought in the village of Siddiqine, about 20 miles south of Nabatea. Siddiqine is an important *Hezbollah* stronghold and the site of a leading religious school run by Iranian and Lebanese clergymen.

Residents in west Beirut were increasingly afraid that the hostilities could spread to the western Muslim sector of the capital, where both sides have considerable military strength.

Risks of a confrontation remain high as long as Iran and Syria stay on the sidelines.

Although friends and allies in the Gulf war, the Syrians and Iranians have been competing for the loyalty of the Shia Muslims of Lebanon, the largest sect in the country.

As a result, relations between Amal, which can mobilize about 30,000 men, and *Hezbollah* have always been a delicate matter.

Through Mr Berri's militia, Syria has been trying to prevent the expansion of Islamic fundamentalism in the belief that the emergence of a strong religious force could eventually challenge the influence of Damascus over the Shia Muslims of the south and of the Bekaa valley.

Iran, which maintains more

than 1,000 revolutionary guards, Islamic scholars and teams of doctors and teachers, sees southern Lebanon as a successful example that the Islamic revolution can be exported and is being accepted quite well by large sectors of Lebanese Muslims.

Friction between Mr Berri's men and *Hezbollah* reached its peak on February 17, when Amal militiamen searching for a kidnapped senior American officer stormed several *Hezbollah* offices in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah has publicly praised the abduction of Lieutenant Colonel Richard William Higgins as a blow to "American imperialism."

Mr Carlucci, for his part, declined to accept that Washington was responsible for increasing tension through its moves to supply more arms to Pakistan. "We have a long-standing and stable relationship with Pakistan," he said. "It is in our interests, and in the interest of the region, to have a stable and co-operative government in Islamabad."

Mr Carlucci indicated that the security aid programme to Pakistan would continue after a Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Apart from a reference to India's "Light Combat Aircraft" project, on which he said co-operation was going well, he was much less specific about arms for India, insisting that "this is not some zero-sum game, where what happens in one country has an impact on the other".

Leading article, page 13

Mr Carlucci: Discouraging moves towards violence. men are also briefing a number of Western journalists on the names of people and places where they allege the Sikhs are receiving official Pakistan blessing in their enterprise. It has proved impossible in the past to track down such allegations, and the Pakistan

Government has always denied vehemently any such involvement. But it would plainly be in Pakistan's interest to keep the trouble in India's half of Punjab on the boil for as long as possible, if it could be done without endangering any other national interest.

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Leading article, page 13

Amid hijack crisis, France deals on kidnaps

Paris barter for Lebanon hostages

From Philip Jacobson Paris

Negotiations for the release of the last three French hostages held in Lebanon appear to have entered a crucial final phase.

As speculation grew in Paris yesterday that the former intelligence agent who played a key role in a previous exchange was back from a new mission in Syria with firm proposals, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs would not comment on reports that a "package deal" involving payment of a huge ransom and the resumption of diplomatic relations with Iran had already been worked out.

It is known, however, that M. Jean-Charles Marchiani, who has been entrusted with the highly sensitive negotiations by the Government of M. Chirac, arrived in Damascus on a scheduled Air France flight on Saturday.

According to well-placed sources, M. Marchiani — travelling once more under the alias of Alexandre Stefani — checked in to room 317 at the Hotel Meridien before setting off for the Bekaa Valley region of Lebanon to meet representatives of the Shia *Hezbollah* faction, which holds effective power there.

There are reliable reports that the former secret service agent, who was involved closely in the deal in which two French journalists were freed last November, was accompanied by a Syrian-born French businessman, M. Omar Adham.

A renowned "fixer" with excellent contacts in the Shia world, M. Adham is known to have been enlisted in previous efforts to secure the release of two diplomats, M. Marcel

Bonn — A federal public prosecutor yesterday demanded an 11-and-a-half-year prison sentence for Mr Abbas Hamadei, who is charged in Dusseldorf with the kidnapping of two West Germans in Beirut (John England writes).

Mr Hamadei, a Lebanese aged 29, has denied involvement in the abductions of Dr Rudolf Cordes and Herr Alfred Schmidt in January last year. But the prosecutor, Dr Karl-Heinz Schnarr, said it had been proved that he had taken part in the kidnaps.

Herr Schmidt, aged 48, was freed in September, but Dr Cordes, aged 54, is still in the hands of a pro-Iranian Shia Muslim group. The prosecutor said Dr Cordes' long captivity led to the conclusion that it was based on a "barbarous, cruel and cynical sentiment". The trial began almost three months ago and the court has heard evidence from about 60 witnesses. Final speeches for the defence will be made next week.

Fontaine and M. Marcel Car ton, and a journalist, Jean-Paul Kauffman, whose ordeal at the hands of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad has now lasted more than 1,000 days.

Despite the official silence in Paris, it is reasonable to assume that the Chirac Government is mounting a final attempt to get the three men home before the first round of voting in France's presidential election on April 24.

The latest push appears to have begun in Vienna last month, when French negotiators, including M. Marchiani, fresh from a trip to Beirut, met several senior Iranian officials.

Reliable sources in Paris say

that the question of resuming diplomatic relations was on the agenda, but the French made clear that this could take place only after the release of the three hostages.

At about the same time, M. Chirac's right-hand man, the Interior Minister, M. Charles Pasqua, was talking to influential figures in the large Lebanese Shia community in Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast. M. Pasqua returned to France ahead of schedule. When journalists asked if this had anything to do with the hostages, he replied: "No, but you are not obliged to believe me."

The reaction this invited was quickly strengthened by the unexpected release of a Lebanese-born Shia who was accused of helping to organize the terrorist bomb attacks which killed 13 people and maimed scores more in Paris in 1986.

After spending a year in jail, Mohammed Moubadjar was freed at the end of March by a senior judge, citing "lack of evidence". An official denial that this had any bearing on a possible hostage deal did nothing to quell speculation that it was another move in the complicated framework of a deal to bring back the three Frenchmen.

Since then, intense activity involving French emissaries in Damascus and Tehran has kept the rumour mill busy.

Within the past few days it has also been reported that shipments of food from "humanitarian organizations" in the West are being distributed among the poorest Shia communities in Lebanon, something that has previously marked the approach of a hostage deal.



M. Lucien Bitterlin, left, a French mediator, leaving talks in Beirut yesterday with Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Amal leader, who said the three hostages in Lebanon would be released soon.

Islamic Jihad returns to terror's centre stage

From Robert Fisk Bahrain

On one of his secret visits to the kidnappers of two Americans in west Beirut, Mr Terry Waite pleaded with the captors in blunt terms which they could not fail to understand.

Even when he recalled his words later, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to Lebanon was shaking with emotion. "Whatever you do," he warned the men of Islamic Jihad, "for God's sake leave the al-Sabah family alone."

Just over a year later Mr Waite was himself in the kidnappers' hands and this week — on the airfield at Mashhad in north-eastern Iran — his appeal was finally and demonstrably ignored. Lowly though they may be in the Kuwaiti Emir's enormous family tree, at least three al-Sabahs now have pistols quite literally pointing at their heads.

The demand of their captors has been the same all along: the release of 17 men, most of them Shia

Muslims, imprisoned in Kuwait for the bombing of the US and French embassies there in 1983.

It was for these men that Terry Anderson, the Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut, was kidnapped in 1985. It was for them that Mr Thomas Sutherland, the acting dean of agriculture at the American University in Beirut, was abducted shortly afterwards. And it was for them that the kidnappers of Mr Anderson and Mr Sutherland argued in their talks with Mr Waite.

Now Islamic Jihad turns out to be far larger and far better organized than the small coven of Shia extremists their enemies once thought them to be.

It was Mr Waite who first realized how tightly controlled and how determined were the men — mostly Lebanese — who ran the organization. A hijacking on this scale requires a degree of concerted action which Islamic Jihad had never previously revealed.

No longer is the fate of those 17 prisoners confined to the ordeal of

two lonely American hostages in Beirut and of Dr Robert Runcie's missing lay preacher; no more is it a matter of bomb explosions around Kuwaiti refineries or vain a car-bomb attempt against the Emir's motorcade. The hijack of flight KU 422 has put Islamic Jihad at the centre of the world stage.

Only Iran will have little to learn from the experience, for the organization is in effect the military wing of the Iraqi opposition *Dawa* party, the movement supported by Iran and dedicated to the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.

Its members in Lebanon, within the *Hezbollah* (Party of God) movement but also among the Shia Muslim intelligentsia, travel freely to Iran and — while they are not directly controlled by the Iranian regime — draw their inspiration from those Iranian clerics who lived and preached in Lebanon.

Shia radicalism in Lebanon always had about it a peculiarly ferocious quality when grafted on to Iranian revolutionary enthusiasm.

The young men who drove car bombs into Israeli army convoys in southern Lebanon, to immolate themselves along with their enemies, can be compared with the kamikaze pilots of Japan.

The man who drove a truck bomb into the American Embassy in 1983 massacred every Lebanese civilian in the visa section as well as many of the CIA's Middle East station operatives. At the time Islamic Jihad claimed these bombers as their members; Sheikh Muhammad Fadlallah himself — a spiritual mentor to the movement — was popularly believed to have blessed the men before their mission, a claim he has always denied.

The Americans put it about that the bombers had been injected with drugs before being sent to their deaths, a young man and woman continued to kill themselves quite deliberately in attacks against the Israelis, coldly recording their posthumous video appearances before their departure.

Not all of them were members of Islamic Jihad — several were Greek Orthodox Christians — but the spirit of self-immolation was set by the Shia Muslims. That is why the gunmen on the Kuwaiti airliner at Mashhad could be far more ruthless than other hijackers.

What makes their demand so deeply cynical, however, is that Islamic Jihad has disclosed privately in the past six months that it would settle for less than the Kuwait 17. Hours of negotiation between intermediaries and the Beirut cells of the movement resulted in a list of just six names, whose release would be sufficient for the entire campaign to be called off.

At least three of these men had families in Lebanon, one of them related by marriage to Imam Moungieh, the *Hezbollah* official who once controlled two of the hostages in Beirut. Already the French — whose three captives in Beirut were abducted for the 17 men in Kuwait — are bargaining with cash for their hostages.

Security chiefs of 60 airlines meet

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

thizers posing as cleaners or airport workers before the passengers boarded the plane.

Although the plane had been officially sealed off, there was a constant flow of cleaners and other workers as it stood on the tarmac for 15 hours. It would have been possible for someone to plant the weapons for collection by their colleagues after take-off.

Captain Harry Clark, the British pilot who commanded the previous Kuwait Airways flight to be hijacked in 1984 spoke yesterday of what conditions would now be like on board the Boeing 747.

"They will not have slept since the hijackers got on

board; they will be tired and hungry, growing beards and beginning to smell. The lavatories will be foul and the psychological pressure on everyone will be incredible."

● BANGKOK: Thai police are investigating the possibility that the hijackers may have bribed airport workers to put weapons on the plane and at the same time denied reports that some suspects had been arrested (Neil Kelly writes).

Mr Charoon Pinthong, director of the Airports Authority of Thailand, said there were no clues yet and that the hijackers' weapons may have been concealed on the aircraft before it arrived.

They will not have slept since the hijackers got on

India blames Pakistan for arming Sikhs

Carlucci seeks to calm border tension

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday expressed Washington's concern over cross-border tension between India and Pakistan.

On the point of leaving Delhi for Islamabad after a series of meetings with Indian leaders, including the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, he said that the subject of cross-border activities in Punjab had come up in his discussions, adding that the US would do all it could to bring about a relaxation of tension.

"We have suggested a series of confidence-building measures," Mr Carlucci said. "We discourage any moves towards violence."

The Indian Government is apparently carrying on a campaign to persuade world and local opinion that much of the problem in Punjab is to be blamed on the activities of the Pakistan Government in encouraging Sikh separatists.

The Prime Minister himself has often alluded in the past to Pakistan's role in the turmoil in the troubled north Indian state. The former Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, also used to make considerable play of the

problem he faced with a virtually unpoliceable border.

Mr Gandhi declared at the weekend that it was "obvious" where the Sikh separatists were getting their weapons from, though without actually naming Pakistan.

Mr S.S. Ray, the governor, who is the effective ruler of the state since the suspension of democratic institutions there 11 months ago, declared on Monday, again without naming Pakistan, that the extremists were being supplied with arms and ammunition free of charge by "a foreign country".

He told journalists in Amritsar that the Government was attempting to seal the border and that this attempt may well include the use of fencing. The notoriously porous frontier has long been a smugglers' paradise.

It is also true that sophisticated automatic assault rifles are circulated widely in Pakistan as a result of the vast inflow of arms and money to the Afghan war, and are freely available in many of the illicit markets in the tribal areas of the North West Frontier Province.

The Pakistan Government

has been unable to prevent these from falling into the hands of bandits in the southern province of Sind, for example, and it is difficult to see how they would be able to stop them going to people determined to foment trouble across the smugglers' border.

Indian government spokes-

men are also briefing a number of Western journalists on the names of people and places where they allege the Sikhs are receiving official Pakistan blessing in their enterprise. It has proved impossible in the past to track down such allegations, and the Pakistan

Government has always denied vehemently any such involvement. But it would plainly be in Pakistan's interest to keep the trouble in India's half of Punjab on the boil for as long as possible, if it could be done without endangering any other national interest.

Mr Carlucci, for his part, declined to accept that Washington was responsible for increasing tension through its moves to supply more arms to Pakistan. "We have a long-standing and stable relationship with Pakistan," he said. "It is in our interests, and in the interest of the region, to have a stable and co-operative government in Islamabad."

Mr Carlucci indicated that the security aid programme to Pakistan would continue after a Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Apart from a reference to India's "Light Combat Aircraft" project, on which he said co-operation was going well, he was much less specific about arms for India, insisting that "this is not some zero-sum game, where what happens in one country has an impact on the other".

Leading article, page 13

Mr Carlucci: Discouraging moves towards violence. men are also briefing a number of Western journalists on the names of people and places where they allege the Sikhs are receiving official Pakistan blessing in their enterprise. It has proved impossible in the past to track down such allegations, and the Pakistan

Sweet touch to Vienna scandal

By Richard Bassett

The womanizing owner of Central Europe's leading confectioners, illegal trafficking in arms and computers, the Romanian secret service, and a clutch of Austrian countesses are the unlikely Viennese ingredients of the latest scandal to rock Austria.

Last month warrants were issued for the arrest of Herr Udo Proksch, proprietor of the celebrated Konditorei Demel, former bakers to the imperial and royal court in Vienna.

Although the warrants were in connection with the sinking of a cargo ship, the *Lucona*, in the Indian Ocean more than 10 years ago, when six lives were lost, investigations by journalists rather than the Austrian authorities have revealed an all-too-familiar web of intrigue.

Suspicion first was aroused when a claim was lodged for insurance of £30 million on cargo the vessel was said to be carrying. As Socialist ministers stumbled over each other to stand as character witnesses for "old friend Udo" in fraud proceedings over the cash claim, speculation arose that the tweed-jacketed cake shop owner and darling of Vienna society was involved in an altogether deeper game.

When Herr Proksch bought

Demel in the early 1970s, he lost no time establishing above his chandeliers, panelled premises an exclusive club which he admitted was based on P2, the infamous Italian freemasonry lodge.

The Club 45 in Vienna boasted as members almost every government minister as well as the president of the Vienna police, the head of Austrian intelligence and prominent figures in the financial world.

Many of these may not have been aware of the darker side of the proprietor's activities. Dr Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of Austria in the 1970s, his successor, Dr Fred Sinowatz, and the present incumbent, Dr Franz Vranitzky, were regular visitors.

It has since emerged that, by this time, Herr Proksch was already on an Interior Ministry list of alleged arms smugglers. Among the guns reported to have been smuggled was the Scorpion automatic believed to have killed Aldo Moro, the Italian Prime Minister, in May 1978.

It has also become known that in 1957 Herr Proksch spent six months in the Soviet Union with his close friend, Herr Rudi Wein, the owner of the legendary Café Grotz, a stone's throw from Demel.

Herr Wein is never lost for a

joke — although, according to Austrian Interior Ministry documents based on the evidence of Eastern defectors, he is said to be a member of the East German secret service.

Herr Proksch, who never went anywhere in Vienna without his revolver, was a familiar sight among habitual party-goers in the capital, where his habit of firing a few shots into a suzoo ceiling of some crumbling palace was seen by his hosts. In the words of one demi-monde countess, as "sehr chic".

Herr Proksch, enjoying the company of Austrian nobility, nonetheless scandalized Viennese society's more conservative elements when he insisted on installing in the Demel window each October a marzipan model of the burning Russian Winter Palace. Meringue effigies of Lenin were also unpopular with the cafe's traditional clientele.

This week, the handpicked Amazonian blonde waitresses in Demel were not saying if they knew of Herr Proksch's whereabouts.

Viennese police who raided the premises recently found an enigmatic telex from the Philippines. Herr Proksch deeply regretted, it stated, that because of illness he would be in hospital for the foreseeable future.

Herr Wein confided: "A good boy at heart, he's probably improving himself, reading the papers."

But beneath Herr Wein's smile and the knowing looks of the waitresses attired in black silk, disturbing questions are being asked. Hans Pretterbner, in his best-selling book *The Lucona Case*, notes the disturbing easy penetration of Vienna by Eastern agents, who face only two years' imprisonment if discovered pursuing espionage activities on Austrian soil.

In Herr Pretterbner's eyes, more than one Eastern defector had died in suspicious circumstances while guarded by the capital's police.

"There are more than 600 full-time members of the KGB just in Vienna," a Western intelligence expert estimated recently. As well as the Soviet Union, the Czechoslovaks and Romanians are also active in Vienna. For Herr Proksch, the Romanians were even prepared to supply falsified documents to give him an alibi when he first faced investigation in 1985.

But however many well-placed agents the East has had in Vienna, it is unlikely that any will match the baroque dimensions of the colourful Herr Proksch, whose return to the capital is eagerly awaited.

Dukakis takes up Democrat reins

From Michael Binyon, Milwaukee

Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts is now firmly back in the saddle as the Democratic front-runner after winning a handsome and much-needed victory in Wisconsin over the Rev Jesse Jackson by 48 to 28 per cent.

The black Baptist preacher, despite drawing large crowds and enthusiastic support, did not win more than 23 per cent of the white vote.

Mr Dukakis, campaigning yesterday in New York, remarked with characteristic caution: "I hope it's a sign of things to come." With his victory also in the Colorado caucuses, he has now won two elections in two days, stalling the media-fed surge in the Jackson campaign and pulling ahead in the vital delegate count. Senator Albert Gore,

He has not won any victory outside his native South. Mr Gore has presented himself as a conservative and more passionate alternative to Mr Dukakis, and has taken the lead in attacking Mr Jackson's positions and lack of experience. But his poor showing will dampen his hopes in New York, where he has been courting the Jewish vote for the primary there on April 19.

Senator Paul Simon, who has remained doggedly in the race though virtually ignored by voters and media, received only 5 per cent in Wisconsin. His hopes for a breakthrough dashed, he is expected to announce today that he is suspending his campaign. He will not officially withdraw, because that would automatically throw 60 of the delegates he won in Illinois to Mr Jackson, the runner-up.

The Dukakis victory has again confounded experts who compared his polite reception with the huge crowds and boisterous enthusiasm for Mr Jackson. But even in Kenosha, where 5,000 workers are about to be laid off when a car plant closes, white blue-collar voters preferred Mr Dukakis by a margin of 2 to 1.

Mr Jackson, who has stood with strikers and demonstrators on picket lines, was counting on disaffected whites to broaden his base. But though he won 95 per cent of the small black vote here, he appears to have reached the



Hand signals: Mr Jackson, left, talking to students in Tempe, Arizona, and Mr Dukakis at a New York press conference.

ceiling of white support. Some of his staff noted bitterly that the big crowds were drawn from curiosity, treating him like a media star but refusing to vote for him.

Wisconsin was make-or-break for Mr Dukakis, the tortoise offering a low-key message of economic achievement that contrasted strikingly with Mr Jackson, the hare who bounded ahead on

passionate oratory and a range of strong views. Mr Dukakis noted that, 28 years ago, Wisconsin was also the crucial primary that gave Senator John Kennedy his victory over Senator Hubert Humphrey. Ironically, both Mr Dukakis and Vice-President George Bush were born in the same Massachusetts area as President Kennedy — and former Presidents John Ad-

ams and John Quincy Adams. The Wisconsin turn-out was one of the highest of all the primaries — a reflection of the earnest perception of civic duties by this liberal electorate of largely German stock. Among blacks, the turn-out was double that of 1984. Fine spring weather and a keenly-fought local contest for mayor of Milwaukee also helped.

The big turn-out aided Mr Dukakis, whose support is considered "soft" compared with the more committed supporters of Mr Jackson, such as students and blacks. Mr Jackson took comfort from his second place here. Only two weeks ago, such a large share of the white vote would have been unthinkable. He is now in Arizona, where the next round of caucuses will be held on Saturday week.

Bare-knuckle battle begins for New York

From Charles Bremner, New York

New York's gritty political bosses cleared the decks yesterday for a no-holds-barred, racially-based battle for the state's Democratic nomination that, according to local experts, will make the campaign so far look like a Sunday-school debate.

Mayor Ed Koch, a self-confessed know-all who keeps up a daily stream of consciousness commentary on his city's affairs, set the tone for the April 19 contest with the first full-blown assault on the Rev Jesse Jackson from a fellow Democrat.

"Jews would have to be crazy to vote for Jackson," he said, citing Mr Jackson's views on Israel and his sympathies with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Silence today is not golden. Silence today is chicken," said the mayor, who admits that reticence is not one of his qualities.

New York Jews, who constitute a quarter of the state's Democratic voters, have not forgotten Mr Jackson's anti-Jewish gaffes in his 1984 campaign, including one remark that the Big Apple should be called "Hymietown", and adding that he would not choose to live there.

Despite his new moderation and the recruitment of the Jewish Mr Gerald Austin as his campaign manager, Mr Jackson is the target of aggressive Jewish campaigns, including one by an organization known as the Jackson Truth Squad.

With Mr Jackson virtually owning the black vote, which accounted for about 24 per cent of the 1984 primary turn-out, the Democratic race is largely a fight for the sympathy of the white and Hispanic voters in New York City and its suburbs.

Three-quarters of the state's 17.5 million people live in the area, a shimmering cauldron of political animosities and hard-boiled ethnic loyalties.

"If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere," is an old politician's aphorism.

Campaigning in New York means learning to say "how are ya?" in half-a-dozen Central European languages and eating an endless supply of pizza, knishes, hot dogs, gyros and other ethnic fodder.

Mr Michael Dukakis is well qualified. The son of Greek immigrants with a Jewish wife, he also speaks fluent Spanish, which is an important plus with the 5 per cent of the electorate who from Latin America. Mrs Kitty Dukakis has already promised to hold a Passover meal in the White House.

By tradition, candidates must defer to New York's own foreign policy, which means developing a strong interest in such topics as British brutality in Northern Ireland and near-fanatical loyalty to the state of Israel.

The late Bella Abzug, a fiery New York congresswoman, summed it up when she started at Mr Koch during a debate a few years ago: "Don't try to out-Jew me, Ed."

With this in mind, Mr Albert Gore, the Tennessee senator who sees New York as his last-ditch effort to gain any coherent support, has taken the lead with pro-Israel commercials on local television. Mr Koch has all but endorsed Mr Gore, raising his chances with the Jewish vote.

The mayor, of course, says he really wants Mr Mario Cuomo, the Governor of New York and Mr Koch's old rival, to step into the presidential race. Mr Cuomo is himself withholding the endorsement that could make or break a candidacy.

But New York has never used liberal it did not like, and Mr Jackson is out to make the most of that. The white trade union establishment has

Delegates, votes won by candidates

Democrats (Target: 2,082 delegates)

| | Del | Vote (%) |
|-------------|-----|--------------|
| Dukakis | 734 | 3,418,378 27 |
| Jackson | 708 | 3,545,411 28 |
| Gore | 393 | 2,748,517 21 |
| Simon | 170 | 968,474 7 |
| Uncommitted | 516 | 2,108,989 15 |

* Includes withdrawn candidates who won 1,889,235 votes (14%)

Republicans (Target: 1,138 delegates)

| | Del | Vote (%) |
|-------------|-----|--------------|
| Bush | 888 | 3,881,940 55 |
| Robertson | 17 | 818,111 12 |
| Uncommitted | 232 | 2,161,073 38 |

* Includes Senator Dole and other withdrawn candidates, who won 2,117,186 votes (32%)

quietly began to move behind Mr Jackson, in marked contrast to their hostility to him in 1984.

Mr Jon Pierce, regional president of the Communication Workers' Union, said: "I'm for him because he's for us. In an era of union-busting and union-bashing, he's never been reluctant to demonstrate his support of union rights."

The candidates have begun investing big money in television advertising. Mr Dukakis has set aside \$1.5 million (£800,000) and Mr Gore, who has hired Mr David Garth, a powerful media adviser, is planning to spend \$1 million.

According to local opinion polls, held before the outcome of the Wisconsin primary, Mr Dukakis holds the lead in New York, with 40 per cent, compared with 30 per cent for Mr Jackson and about 8 per cent for Mr Gore.

The other candidate, Senator Paul Simon, was advised by one local newspaper yesterday to spare the bother and spend the rest of the campaign visiting the Empire State Building and other popular tourist sights.

Fighting in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa tells aid workers to go

From Andrew Buccoke, Nairobi

Relief agency officials say that the Ethiopian Government is ordering all foreign aid workers out of the drought and war stricken northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigré in a move which threatens the breakdown of food distribution to an estimated three million hungry people.

The Government is understood to be unable to guarantee the safety of relief agency workers in large areas of the north big gains by both the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the Tigré People's Liberation Front in recent offensives. It also wants them out of the way while its forces mount a large-scale counteroffensive against the guerrillas.

Although the Ethiopian Army is heavily supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba, it appears to have been unprepared for the simultaneous attacks launched by the experienced guerrillas of Eritrea and Tigré who have been fighting for secession for 27 and 13 years respectively.

The rebels had already seriously disrupted relief efforts by attacking food convoys, and many towns and food distribution centres had to rely on an international airlift.

This applied particularly in Tigré, where the effects of drought are most severe and the guerrillas were already unable to bring in sufficient food from Sudan for the areas they controlled before the current offensive.

The Eritrean rebels, who are held responsible for most attacks on food convoys, are understood to have enough food for the areas they control.

The relief agencies had hoped to improve food distribution after recent rebel promises not to attack convoys clearly marked with

agency flags and unescorted by the army. It is unlikely, however, that local personnel will be able to undertake such convoys amid the expected heavy fighting.

Early indications are that the crews operating the 10 aircraft in the airlift will not be affected by the evacuations, but their efficiency may be seriously reduced. The airlift has been supplying 12,000 tonnes a month in Tigré, about half the province's needs.

The Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

Geneva (Reuters) — Audrey Hepburn, the former film actress who visited Ethiopia as a UNICEF ambassador, appealed yesterday for emergency aid for more than two million children facing starvation there. "They desperately need all the help we can give them... their suffering is unbearable to me," she said.

may be the only agency left operating in the north, but the rebels are unlikely to respect its neutrality.

The Government has meanwhile secured much-needed reinforcements for its operations in the north. After Ethiopia dropped its demand that Somalia recognize the current border in the Ogaden region before negotiations could take place, an agreement to resume diplomatic relations and withdraw troops was reached at the weekend, freeing much-needed reinforcements for the Ethiopians.

The two sides fought a war over the Ogaden, which is populated by Somalis, in 1977-78 and the absence of any peace agreement and occasional border clashes ever since has demanded a large Ethiopian military presence.

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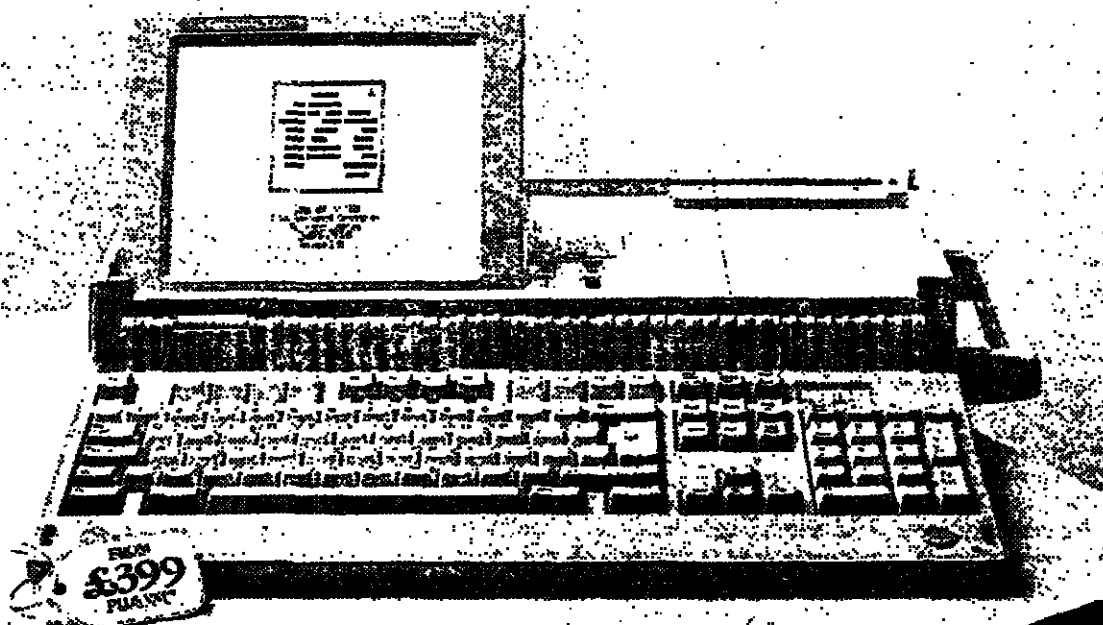
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Knuckle begins w York
The late Bella Abzug, a fiery New York congresswoman, was buried in New York City on Wednesday. She died of cancer a few years ago. "Don't try to out-Jew me," Ed. With this in mind, Mr. Albert Gore, the Tennessee senator who sees New York as his last ditch effort to gain any coherent support, has taken the lead with pro-Israeli commercials on local television. Mr. Koch has all his chances with the Jewish vote. The mayor, of course, says he really wants Mr. Mario Cuomo, the Governor of New York and Mr. Koch's old rival, to stay into the presidential race. Mr. Cuomo is himself short on endorsements but could make or break a candidacy. But New York has never been a liberal state and Mr. Jackson is not the most of that. The white trade union establishment has

Delegates, votes won by candidates
Democrats (Target: 2,692 delegates)
Bush 734 24.8%
Jackson 702 23.5%
Gore 283 9.5%
Simon 170 5.6%
Uncommitted 516 17.1%
Includes 1,000 delegates who won 1,225 votes in 1984.
Republicans (Target: 1,152 delegates)
Bush 568 32.1%
Robertson 17 1.1%
Uncommitted 522 28.8%
Includes 500 delegates who won 522 votes in 1984.

quickly began to move behind Mr. Jackson, in marked contrast to their hostility to him in 1984. Mr. Jan Pierce, regional president of the Communications Workers' Union, said "I'm for him because he's the only one who's been in the line of fire as a result of his support of union rights." The candidates have been investigated by the media. Mr. Jackson was accused of having been involved in a 1984 campaign to get the American Medical Association to drop its support of abortion rights. The other candidates, Senator Paul Simon, was accused by one of his supporters of having been involved in a 1984 campaign to get the American Medical Association to drop its support of abortion rights.

ing in Ethiopia
Ababa tells workers to go
The Ethiopian government has ordered workers to go back to work in Addis Ababa. The government has been accused of human rights abuses and has been under international pressure to improve its record.

Nicaraguan peace initiative Contra complaints threaten to sink talks in Managua

From David Gollob, Managua
The Nicaraguan peace initiative, launched two weeks ago with an unprecedented ceasefire agreement and an undertaking to pursue negotiations towards a definitive settlement of the civil war, has run into serious difficulties. The Managua Government and the Contra rebels have accused each other of violating the Sapoa accords, named after the Nicaraguan border post where — to the surprise of most observers here — the two sides signed a peace pact on March 23. Most of the complaints have come from the Contras. Far from raising doubts about the commitment of the Sandinista Government, the Contras' protestations suggest a sudden reluctance to allow the peace process to reach success. President Ortega said: "No sooner did they get their funds from Congress than they began stalling", reflecting the Sandinistas' growing conviction that the Contras either signed the Sapoa agreement in bad faith or that their political leadership has buckled under pressure from the Reagan Administration, which opposes the peace plan. On Saturday President Reagan approved a \$48 million (\$25 million) package of non-military aid. The same day, a Contra spokesman in Miami announced that the rebels had decided unilaterally to postpone a meeting which

was to have taken place in Managua yesterday. Arranged under the terms of the Sapoa pact, it was to have been the first step in the search for permanent peace. The Government rejected these demands as unacceptable. Major-General Joaquin Cuadra, Vice-Minister of Defence and second in command to General Ortega, said: "This is supposed to be a meeting to discuss the terms of a settlement of the conflict, not an occasion to launch a political campaign." The 60-day ceasefire which started on Good Friday and was supposed to provide a better climate for the negotiations has meanwhile begun to crumble. Though Managua has accused the Contras of violating the Sapoa accords only by failing to turn up for yesterday's meeting, a military official has admitted that 22 government soldiers and civilians have died in Contra attacks over the past few days. The Contras accuse the Government of launching offensive actions to drive potential civilian supporters from ceasefire zones into which their forces are theoretically supposed to regroup by the middle of this month. Parallel negotiations over the definition of the zones did resume this week, but they have proceeded at a snail's pace, due in part to the lack of punctuality of the Contra delegation. He declared: "The newspaper shortage ... is not the fault of the Government." The Contras also objected to the quality of their hotel accommodation in Managua. And on Tuesday, at a press conference in Miami, three senior Contra leaders threatened not merely to postpone the talks but to cancel them unless new demands about the arrangements were met. Señor Adolfo Calero, one of the Contra leaders, said: "The programme of the Government is for our virtual imprisonment in our hotel. We are demanding that we be free when we are in Managua." The Contras insist that they be given unrestricted freedom to travel throughout Managua, to confer with oppo-

General Ortega: Denies deal on release of prisoners.

Señor Calero: "We demand that we be free in Managua."

Matador's surprise in the afternoon



A Spanish matador looking on in astonishment as a somersaulting bull hurtles towards him. The incident happened during Señor Fernando Cepeda's appearance in the bullring at the weekend corrida in Arles in south-eastern France.

Mexicans haunted by death squad era

From Alan Robinson, Mexico City
Mexico's National Front Against Repression has mixed feelings about Señor Zacarias Osorio, a Mexican Army deserter who claims he was part of a military death squad between 1977 and 1982. He has won political asylum in Canada by pleading that his return to Mexico would mean his own death. "He saved his life by admitting he is a murderer," a National Front spokesman said bitterly. "But his testimony is the first from the other side of the fence that helps to corroborate hundreds from Mexicans who were kidnapped, tortured and witnessed executions." But even the militant National Front does not claim to have proof that there are still military death squads in Mexico. "But we know they exist," he said. Señora Rosario Ibarra de Piedra is leader of Mexico's human rights movement and the founder, in 1977, of the Committee for Defence of Prisoners, Persecuted and Missing People and Exiles. Before 1975 she was a placid housewife. But that year her son, Jesús, disappeared, presumably because of his left-wing activities. Señora Ibarra believed that the Government was responsible and started a search for her son. She made contact with hundreds of relatives of other missing people, founded the committee and eventually united it with other human rights organizations in the National Front. Now, at 60, she is the presidential candidate of the left-wing Revolutionary Workers' Party for the July election and has been twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. There are now 543 names on her list of missing persons. The committee has rescued many political prisoners, she says, "and all testify they were held in clandestine jails". Some say they were in Military Camp No 1 in Mexico City. Others were in La Hoya Military Camp in the state of Coahuila, or in the Icaos Naval Base in Acapulco. Some have described being in jails run by the former Federal Security Directorate (now renamed the Directorate of Investigation and National Security, answerable to the Interior Ministry). "Many of those who got out came to us and said they saw other missing persons while inside. We believe many are still alive," she said. Some prisoners had been held for between six months and three years, and others had been incarcerated for as long as 10 years before being seen again. "Three years ago a young man told me he had seen my son. If he was around then, he could still be alive now," Señora Ibarra said. In 1978 a hunger strike by human rights groups in Mexico City helped to persuade President López Portillo to decree an amnesty law. About 1,500 political prisoners were freed, though the Government officially continued to deny their existence. In the following 10 years another 148 missing persons reappeared after pressure by the human rights groups. Señora Ibarra believes the Government has not released the 543 on the list today "because they would be admitting they made a mistake and that they broke their own laws". She said that the National Front against Repression "uses political acts and international pressure. Generally after someone disappears we start action right away. But the Government does not say 'Look, here he is', when they let somebody out. They let them go on a side-street or an alley, give them a bit of money and threaten them so they won't talk. They always come to us and tell us what happened."

Flooding disaster in eastern Australia

Sydney — The south-east of Queensland, Australia's sunshine coast, was declared a natural disaster area yesterday after 17 in of rain in a week brought flood chaos (Our Correspondent writes). State emergency services evacuated thousands of people as the deluge continued in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Aircraft fire

Tokyo (AFP) — A South African Government inquiry found that fire in the baggage hold and a faulty fire-fighting system caused the November crash over the Indian Ocean of a South African Airways plane in which 159 people died, the Asahi newspaper reported. An explosion had been suspected.

Fraud inquiry

Onagadongon (AFP) — The younger brother of Thomas Sankara, the leader of Burkina Faso in West Africa who was assassinated in a coup last October, was held in an embezzlement investigation.

Monk shot

Colombo — A Buddhist monk was injured when Sri Lankan police fired on students demonstrating against colleagues' detentions and college closures at Kelaniya University.

Return to US

Hanoi (AFP) — Vietnam gave the remains of 27 US servicemen to an American delegation in the largest such handover since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Nato talks

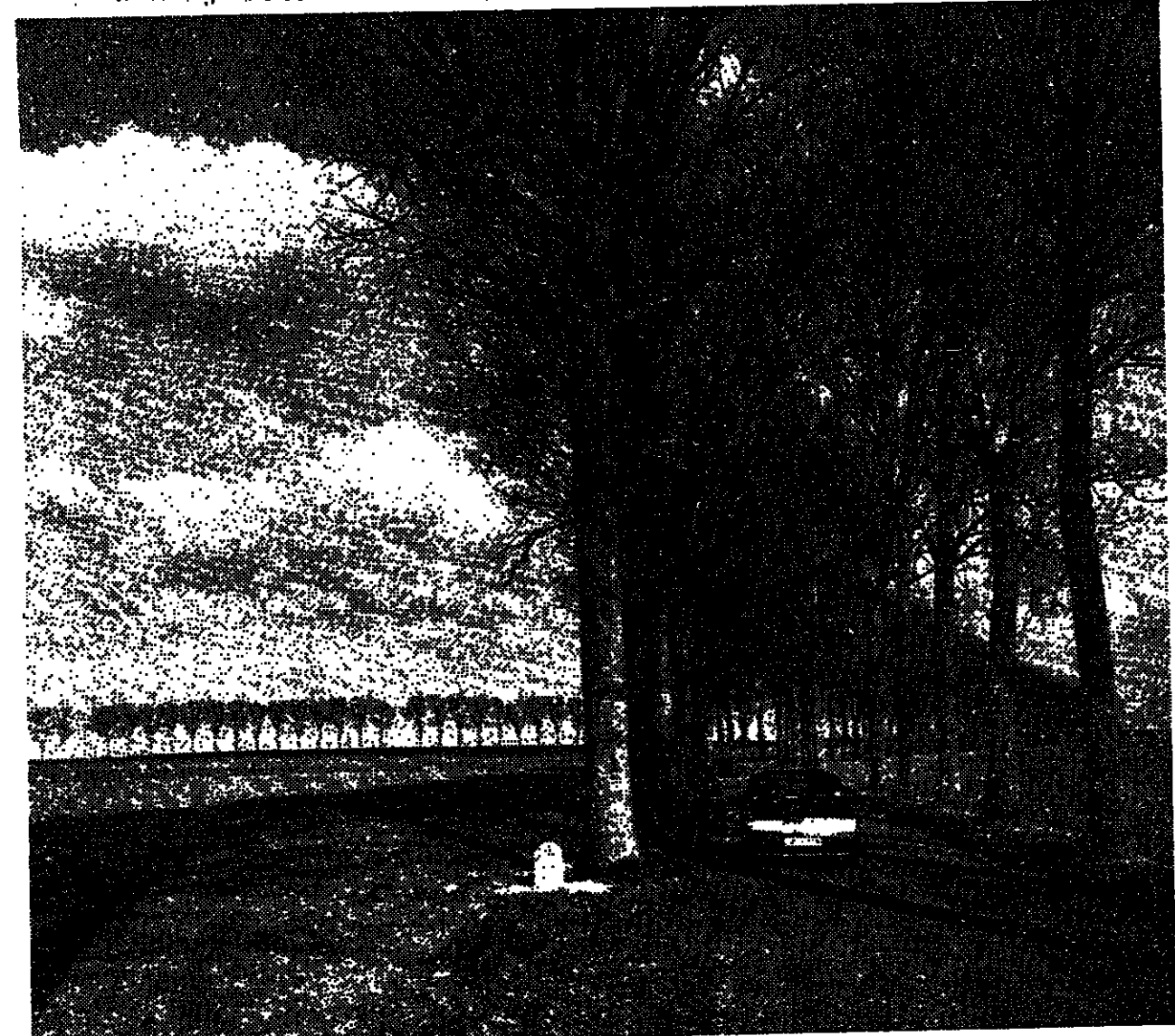
Madrid — General John Galvin, the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, arrived here on a three-day visit.

Young protest

Dhaka (AP) — Nearly 2,000 children of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh since 1971 marched through the streets demanding to be sent home.

Data lines

New York (AP) — Police held a couple accused of running a multimillion-dollar prostitution ring that used a computerized client list and bleachers to page its 450 call-girls.



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Freedom fighter in the Knesset

THE TIMES PROFILE

YITZHAK SHAMIR

We fight, therefore we are. The words are those of Menachem Begin, but they sum up the spirit in which his successor as leader of the Herut Movement, Yitzhak Shamir, is now taking on the world. The Israeli Prime Minister has spent most of his 72 years fighting seemingly overwhelming odds to establish a Greater Israel stretching at least from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. Fighting has become a habit. The current pressures on him from the United Nations, the EEC and the United States do not stand any more of a chance of breaking him than did the threat of Russian pogroms, imprisonment and exile by the British, and even rejection for years by most of his fellow Jews.

He is short and barrel-chested, with the clipped moustache and haircut of a sergeant-major and a voice like an asthmatic guard dog. As physically fit as a man half his age, he wears a fixed, all-purpose grin that would be the envy of any poker player.

Like a successful card-player, he never reveals any more than he wants. He answers questions with well-tested clichés which allow for all possible interpretation. He is currently using the technique to avoid telling the Americans that he has rejected their peace plan and timetable, even though it is obvious that he has. The technique has turned him into a successful public politician even though he has spent most of his working life as an underground agent, freedom fighter or terrorist, staying out of the limelight.

Yitzhak Jazarnicki, as he was born during the First World War at Ruzynoy in the Polish part of the Russian Empire, quickly became a militant Zionist. He joined the movement as a law student in Warsaw, and in 1935, long before he had finished his studies, he decided he should practise what he believed and left for Palestine to enrol at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as part of a mass emigration from Eastern Europe which hoped to populate the promised Jewish homeland.

He had scarcely arrived, however, when the 1936 Arab Revolt finally led Britain to retreat from its 1917 commitment, in the Balfour Declaration, to set up a Jewish homeland. The young law student realized that there was no possibility of diplomatic pressure on Britain reopening Palestine to Jewish refugees from Europe. He saw that the Jews inside the Mandate area were in danger of becoming a vulnerable minority. The

1939 White Paper, which limited Jewish immigration to 75,000 over the next five years, turned the subject of the right of self-government of Palestine by Jews into a pressing need for them. Despite the outbreak of the Second World War, in which the Jews realized Britain was the only country standing against the Nazis, the Haganah (underground army) prepared its battle for a statehood.

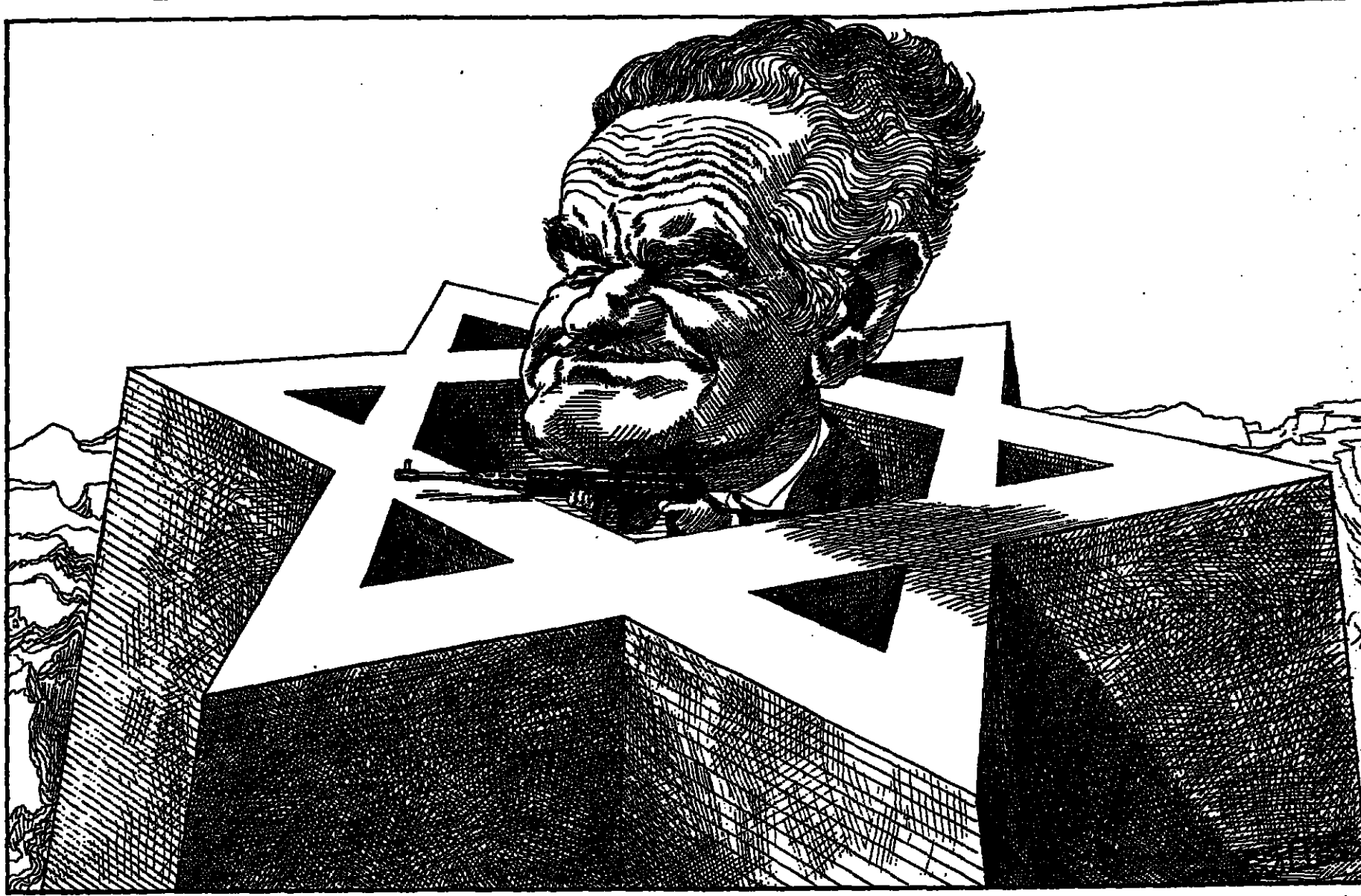
For some, including both the future Herut prime ministers, the Haganah was not active enough. They believed that only when Britain realized that it was up against a real and dangerous militant Zionist force fighting for a Jewish state was there any chance of its creation. Begin led Irgun, the national military organization, while Shamir — as he later became — was the second commander of the tiny and more extreme LEHY, better known as the Stern Gang.

While the war continued, the militant groups smuggled refugees from Europe into Palestine. They financed themselves by robberies and bank raids and "Yitzhak Yestermitsky" became one of the most wanted men on the Mandate police force books. Arrested in 1941, he later took over the Stern Gang and, when the war ended, used it to oppose British rule. In July 1946, the gang blew up the King David Hotel, the British headquarters, killing 88, including 15 Jews.

Shamir was caught and interned in Eritrea but escaped to France, where he was granted asylum. In May 1948, on the declaration of the state of Israel, he returned to fight with the Stern Gang for full independence.

When the Swedish diplomat Count Folke Bernadotte arrived as the UN mediator in 1948, believing he would achieve peace by bringing back the Arab refugees, he was lobbied by the "Fighters for the Freedom of the Land of Israel", as the gang called itself. The banners said: "Stockholm is yours. Jerusalem is ours. So long as there is a single enemy of our cause, we shall have a bullet in a magazine for him." On September 16, a gang member emptied a machine-gun magazine into the Count.

Just as the King David bomb had been a decisive factor in Britain giving up the Mandate, so the death of Count Bernadotte spelt the end of UN attempts to impose the plan to partition Palestine and keep Jerusalem as an international city. The Stern Gang, by the use of violent methods, had played a crucial role in bringing about the creation of the state.



The boundaries of Israel were no more than ceasefire lines, and there were many who believed that inevitably the final borders would stretch at least to the River Jordan. David Ben-Gurion himself said the state had been established only in "a portion of the land of Israel".

The leader of the Stern Gang now changed his Polish name to "Shamir" — it means "dill weed" — and was a favourite underground codename. For seven years he went into private business in Israel, then in 1955 he became a Mossad secret service agent in Europe for about 10 years, returning to Jerusalem when he was 50.

It was only in 1970 that he joined Begin in Herut and began his career in the party, working first on immigration policy and then on party organization. Elected to the Knesset in 1973, he was made Speaker after the Likud election victory in 1977. He became Foreign Minister in 1980, taking over as Prime Minister and Likud leader when Begin resigned in 1983. With the dead-end general

election of 1984 he pragmatically agreed to enter a national coalition government, taking over again as Prime Minister from his arch-rival, Shimon Peres, in October 1986. That was when the campaign for the next election — still due in November — began in earnest. The one issue is peace, which has eluded Israel for 40 years.

Peres is prepared to trade some of the land Israel occupies in return for that recognition. Shamir is not, and backs Jewish settlers who want to live in the territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Shamir argues that the Arabs see all of Israel as "occupied land", and that to hand over Nablus or Gaza would be the first step to handing over Tel Aviv or Haifa.

Not personally very religious, Shamir accepts the rabbinical advice that "it is forbidden by the Torah for all Jews, including the Israeli Government, to return even an inch of the territory of Greater Israel in our hands". He claims that Israel has already handed over land to obtain the peace with Egypt, and sees no reason why the Palestinian Arabs should not leave to find homes in

the 22 Arab countries, just as Jews from Arab countries had to leave their homes for Israel. He is determined that there will never be a Palestinian state, even if the Arabs in "Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip" are allowed to run their own affairs.

He wants peace, but is not afraid of war, which he sees has brought advantages to Israel over the past 40 years. It led to the enforced mass migration from Arab countries which brought Israel the population it needed; it has created one nation and purpose from the many people of the diaspora; it has extended Israel's controlled territory to something close to the biblical borders envisaged by the early Zionists.

For Shamir, there can be no secure peace if land is handed back, because he feels this would be seen as a sign of weakness that would encourage the Arabs to press on to the Mediterranean. He fights shy of an international peace conference because he believes that a pre-condition would

be Israel's agreement to hand back land. He would be happy to argue Israel's case before any conference in the world, but he is not prepared to attend a negotiating session designed to oblige Israel to leave one inch of the land it now controls. He is not prepared to make any concessions in the face of violence in the Occupied Territories.

He recently summed up his philosophy in two terse answers to questions from journalists. "What is your advice to the settlers?" one asked. "Be strong," he said. "And what is your advice to the Palestinians?" "Be quiet," he warned.

It is the kind of tough response which is admired in Israel, even by his many enemies. Shamir is respected as a man who stands foursquare for his belief in a Greater Israel and who has the will to fight for it against any odds. Many think him wrong, but none doubts his patriotism or courage. He lacks the subtlety to be a great statesman, or the charisma to be loved, but inside the country he helped to create he personifies the battling spirit of modern Israel.

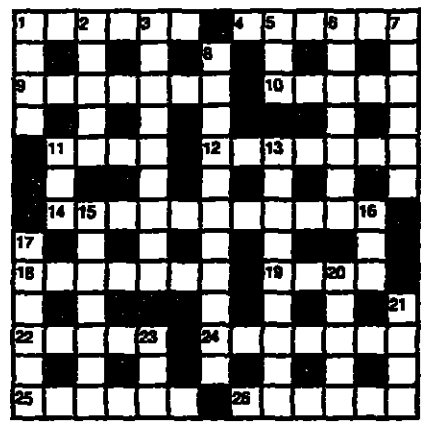
Ian Murray

BIOGRAPHY

- 1915: Born in Ruzynoy, Poland.
- 1936: Emigrated to Palestine.
- 1937: Joined the Irgun.
- 1940: Left Irgun to join the Stern Gang.
- 1941: Interned by the British; escaped.
- 1946: Interned in Eritrea; escaped to France.
- 1948: Returned to Israel, worked in private business.
- 1955-65: Served as Mossad agent in Europe.
- 1966: Returned to Israel. Campaigned for Soviet Jewry.
- 1970: Joined Herut party.
- 1973: Elected to Knesset.
- 1977: Knesset Speaker.
- 1980: Foreign Minister.
- 1983: Prime Minister.
- 1984: After election dead heat, agreed to "rotate" as Prime Minister with Shimon Peres. Served first as Foreign Minister.
- October 1986: Took over as Prime Minister.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1533

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ised (6)
 - 4 Largest US state (6)
 - 9 Traffic jam (5-2)
 - 10 Pick-me-up (5)
 - 11 Give way (4)
 - 12 Core (7)
 - 14 Inside enemy (5-6)
 - 18 Public salute (7)
 - 19 Waste site (6)
 - 22 Irish lake (5)
 - 24 Without hailing (7)
 - 25 Garland (6)
 - 26 Brigand (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Speedy (4)
 - 2 Reduce (5)
 - 3 Greek athletes' centre (9)
 - 5 Illuminated (3)
 - 6 Solar ray (7)
 - 7 Impute guilt (6)
 - 8 Enterprising (2-3-6)
 - 11 Boys' Services group (1,1,1)
 - 13 Roman Scotland (9)
 - 15 Contain (7)
 - 16 Ours (3)
 - 17 Roll in mud (6)
 - 20 Subdued (5)
 - 21 Discern (4)
 - 23 Wooden shelter (3)



SOLUTION TO NO 1532

ACROSS: 1 Autonomy 5 Acid 9 Puritan 10 Infer 11 Wrong 12 Lance 13 Rogue 15 Paved 16 Crowd 18 Base 20 Apron 21 Impasse 23 Oath 24 Venerate

DOWN: 1 Appeal 2 Turgeven 3 Nut 4 Moormouthshire 6 Cafe 7 Drive 8 Disgrace 11 West Bank 14 Gioriana 15 Da Capo 17 Daphne 19 Fret 22 Pie

A case of discredit where credit's due

artfile



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

Last week, Christie's and Sotheby's were revelling in their results with a 1987 turnover of £600 million announced for the former, and £850 million for the latter. Nobody thought of sending any of the profits in the direction of the academic community, to which a fair proportion of the credit for the respective profit increases — 49 per cent for Christie's, 39 per cent for Sotheby's — is due.

Auction houses rely extensively on outside specialists, picking their brains at a moment's notice, quoting them liberally in the catalogue, particularly when the opinion is favourable. Last month, John Martin's "Assuaging of the Waters", an enormous oil painting depicting the moment when the Great Flood abated — fetched a record price for the artist of £495,000 at Sotheby's. Much of the resounding catalogue entry — which revealed how the idea for the painting came from Prince Albert — was supplied, gratis, by the Martin expert, Michael Campbell.

Despite the hours of labour involved, academics are rarely paid — apart from occasional gestures such as a case of wine at Christmas. The fact is that the taxpayer, in footing the bill for academic work, is inadvertently subsidizing Sotheby's profits.

Citizens of Coventry, accustomed to the pitch of political canvassers, evangelists, and double-glazing salesmen, are bracing themselves for some new doorstep patter: environmental awareness.

Over the next few months, a council team will knock on about 80,000 doors in the city's industrial heartland in an EEC-backed exercise designed to coax out public attitudes on wider pollution issues such as acid rain, as well as more local concerns, such as litter, traffic noise and air pollution.

Philip Turner, of Coventry City Council's environmental

health department, is the programme's co-ordinator. He says his team will seek to preach to the unconverted. "We are not looking for people who are already interested. We want to find out what's bothering the people who don't know where to complain and who are not already switched on to environmentalism."

People will be asked what they throw away, where they throw it, and what they would be prepared to recycle: paper, glass, and household chemicals. The plan is to launch much more ambitious recycling projects than the municipal bottle bank.

The team will also counsel

our libraries are underfunded," says Pointon, a lecturer at Sussex University.

Vivien Noakes, the world expert on Edward Lear, is completely freelance, and is therefore more concerned with self-preservation. "To become an authority on the life and work of any painter is a very costly process, in terms of both time and money," she says. Freelance art historians, "depend for their living upon the knowledge they have acquired, as any professional does... I cannot see why dealers and auctioneers should expect to use that knowledge without payment, any more than they would go to their doctor or lawyer and ask his advice for nothing."

There are no simple solutions. Most respectable art historians are terrified of becoming tarred with Bernard Berenson's brush. The name of early 20th-century art historian was synonymous with probity until it was discovered after his death that he had given his opinions for a fee, on occasion getting a cut from the art dealer Lord Duveen. In the 1970s, one London agent says, German collectors refused to buy any painting that had not been certified by a particular German specialist — but, towards the end of his life, the specialist's wife was writing



Detail from Martin's painting, boosted by free academic help

the certificates for anyone who would pay.

Another complication is the practice of reciprocity, whereby specialists, whether financed by the public or private sector, are often supplied with photographs and catalogues by dealers and auctioneers.

"But it is nothing like a quid pro quo," Pointon says. "Many academics are unaware of the potential legal sting if their advice is wrong. My legal advisers inform me that if you give an opinion you become legally liable," Pointon says. "If you take money for it, you become even more liable."

Sotheby's and Christie's have put money into certain

university departments, but Pointon says, "that is a drop in the ocean when you think the whole entity is based on scholarship". She suggests that one solution might involve auction houses "investing in the academic world".

That would still leave people like Vivien Noakes without reimbursement. "One longs for the whole thing to be established on a formal basis, for the doctor does not risk losing his patients if he sends in his bill. I suppose the danger is that many dealers or auction houses will go ahead without involving the expert, and that more works will be offered with insubstantial authentication."

Come clean

Environmental awareness is the new evangelism

residents on the safe handling of waste materials produced by domestic cleaning or car maintenance, such as solvents, wood preservatives, and potentially carcinogenic diesel soot.

The team will also give advice on energy conservation and landscape improvement.

Coventry was nominated as a demonstration recycling city in the recently-concluded European Year of the Environment, but the city council extended the brief to take in a wider environmental assessment. Turner believes the exercise, which will cover about a quarter of Coventry's 350,000 citizens, is unique in its scope as an analysis of a city's environmental ills and as a prospectus for improvement.

"At the end of the day we will have a population which is much more aware of environ-

mental issues. They will know what to do to raise pressure and get issues resolved. We hope to persuade people to start projects, such as improving a polluted canal, cleaning up a piece of land, or taking part in energy conservation schemes."

The council's team will also visit local industrialists who are faced with the problem of disposing of increasingly hazardous waste. Every business in Coventry's industrial triangle will be asked about the waste it generates and informed of the opportunities for recycling it.

Gareth Huw Davies
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HEALTH

Back to their roots

Baldness is often thought of as a disease of the male ego; women who lose their hair do not agree. Barbara Lamb reports on how hair is lost — and regained

At first glance, Elizabeth Steel's lustrous wavy brown hair looks like her own. Her beautifully made wig is in the style she used to wear when her hair was thick and glossy, as the photographs in her sitting room remind her. Steel suffers from alopecia areata, which spread from an innocent looking bald patch to her hair coming out in handfuls every time she brushed it. Within a matter of weeks she was bald except for a small clump that mercifully hung on at the back. Now, for the first time in six years, the hair on her crown and at the sides has begun to grow.

Elizabeth Steel is the "pen name" that she adopted when she decided to write about going bald for a women's magazine, an article to which hundreds of women responded, describing cases similar to her own, or more severe afflictions such as alopecia totalis, where all scalp hair is lost, or alopecia universalis, the loss of body hair as well. As Wendy Jones, her real name, she had been working as a freelance television presenter and producer in the Midlands when she started to lose her hair in her thirties.

Like many people, Steel thought that baldness was solely a male affliction. In fact women can suffer from male pattern baldness (alopecia androgenetica) as well as other forms of alopecia. According to Dr David Fenton, a leading dermatologist at St Thomas's Hospital in London who runs his own clinic for alopecia patients, male pattern or "common" baldness can be inherited from either parent by children of either sex. In women the effect is a general sparseness of hair rather than the classic bare crown and temples seen in men. Alopecia areata (patchy scalp loss) can happen at any age and affects men and women equally (although at his clinic Fenton sees twice as many women as men), with 44 per cent of sufferers affected before they are 21 (10 per cent of Fenton's patients are children). A third of sufferers will recover completely, and a third go on to develop the more severe forms of alopecia.

Figures for the incidence of hair loss in women are hard to establish; Steel is convinced from the letters she now receives (up to 300 a day) that they are far higher than hospital statistics suggest — in part because few sufferers will approach a GP, let alone visit a hospital. In America the results of a recently published epidemiological study, conducted by Dr Sigrid Miller, a world authority on hair loss, at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, show that the incidence of alopecia is on the increase in both men and women. Miller confidently predicts that, if the trend continues, by the mid-21st century one in 100 women will suffer from the disease.

While it is generally known that causes alopecia — an auto immune



Bewigged: After she began to lose hair, television presenter Wendy Jones set up a support group for women like her

'A very high percentage of patients have had some sort of severe shock'

disease in which the lymphocytes in the immune system overwork and reject the hair as foreign — what triggers it and how to stop it progressing is still unknown. While researching a book on the subject (to be published by Thorsons later this year) Steel has become convinced that there is a connection with the contraceptive pill. It is more widely suggested that stress may be a factor, and while Steel thinks this "an old-fashioned view" she says the type of woman who writes to her most is "in her late twenties to early thirties, working like mad in a career and trying to keep a family going". Fenton feels there is no typical sufferer, but says: "People have discovered that stress can have an effect on the immune system. A very high percentage of alopecia patients have had some sort of severe shock or experienced an extremely stressful situation, but there is a significant number who have the disease and do not have any form of stress."

Steel has set up a support network for sufferers called Hairline International, which now has more than 1,000 members (90 per cent of whom are women) both here and abroad. It is the only one of its kind in the country and doctors and dermatologists contribute to its monthly newsletter.

The drug Minoxidil has recently been hailed as a treatment for hair

loss. It is present in Regaine, the lotion approved last month by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, which said it has been shown to restore hair in a significant number of cases. Minoxidil is already known and approved as a treatment for high blood pressure; its additional property was noticed by patients taking it in tablet form for its original purpose. At the moment the lotion, developed by the Upjohn pharmaceutical company, is only available privately and Upjohn says it is likely to work only on those with mild or recent baldness. The safety committee considered it to have no noticeable effect whatsoever on women. But Steel believes that it was an experimental formulation of Minoxidil, discovered by trial and error by her dermatologist, which triggered her regrowth, and she feels that the drug could give hope to thousands. She also has high hopes of another drug to help with severe cases. "Several Hairline members throughout the country are now taking part in trials of dihydrocypone, an organic phenol derivative. One woman's hair has grown back for the first time in 54 years."

Fenton, whose clinic has a waiting list, often refers patients to Steel for psychological support as well as practical advice and feels this service is vital for parents of affected children.

When patients first visit him, Fenton will try to ascertain what sort of hair loss they are suffering from, and will carry out blood tests to eliminate the possibility of an underactive thyroid or iron deficiency.

"There is yet another condition known as telogen effluvium which is particularly common after childbirth, although sometimes a high fever or childhood illness such as measles can bring it on. This is a condition equivalent to a human moult, but there is almost 100 per cent recovery within six to nine months."

Fenton has faith in Minoxidil as a treatment for mild cases of alopecia and in a trial with Dr John Wilkinson in High Wycombe he found 50-70 per cent of patients with patchy alopecia had some regrowth. "But for the people who needed it most we didn't manage to regrow any at all."

"The next question was, will it work on common baldness, a much bigger problem? We found for both men and women Minoxidil worked best on those who had started balding within the last few years. Even if it does not make hair regrow it can at least hold it in check or slow down the loss."

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Hairline can be contacted at Hill, Vellacott, Post and Mail House, Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AT.

When depression becomes a killer

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

It is the Oxfordshire's coroner's duty to decide whether Mrs Linda Mockford murdered her children and then committed suicide, but the widespread assumption that this is what happened has arisen because the story is typical of one of the extreme reactions found in severe depression.

Given the feeling of utter hopelessness and total disenchantment with the world that a depressed parent may feel, such actions can be understood as a manifestation of misdirected love. The mother, or father, feels unable to cope with his or her own inadequacies, cannot give the children the protection they need, and is unable to guard them from the sinful, wretched place the world has become. Suicide then seems, in that distressed state, the only answer — but if it is the answer for the parent it also must be the answer for the children the parent so loves. Unable to let them bear the suffering they are assumed to share, the parent murders them.

One of the more gratifying experiences for a doctor is to talk to patients who have been frustrated in their suicidal and/or murderous intentions, and marvel with them at the pleasure life still has to offer once their perception has been cleared with appropriate treatment, often of only a few weeks' duration.

Once acute depression has been diagnosed it usually responds remarkably well to treatment; in the young and middle aged, the classic pattern of sleep disturbance, weight loss, a less pessimistic mood as the day wears on, loss of appetite, libido, and enthusiasm for the future usually makes the diagnosis obvious. A few carefully chosen but direct questions about

suicidal intentions are rarely if ever resented; usually they are welcomed with relief.

The problem in the elderly is not so clear-cut; the signs and symptoms are blurred by other features of old age. Dr Catherine Oppenheimer, a consultant psychiatrist at Oxford, writing in *Mind* magazine, reviews the present treatment available for the elderly depressive and discusses its diagnosis. She concludes that doctors have to be very watchful if they are not to miss a few cases.

She looks for three features: a change in behaviour, a history of depression in younger life and morbid thoughts. She says recent research at Duke University, North Carolina, has shown that the normal reaction, however old people are, is to continue to look forward to the future, however limited it may be. In Dr Oppenheimer's view a loss of enthusiasm for life is a pointer to an underlying depressive illness, which can be alleviated by any of the standard methods of treatment.

Mistakes in diagnosis can arise if the natural slowing of intellect found in old age, which in extreme cases could be labelled as dementia, is not differentiated from the slow, confused, repetitive thoughts of the elderly patient who is depressed. Others may become agitated and restless, symptoms which can be misdiagnosed as indicating anxiety, or deluded, which might suggest a paranoid illness were it not that the delusions of old age are laced with feelings of guilt, self-deprecation and nihilism.

Early treatment would reduce the number of people who end a useful life by drowning themselves in the dyke or hanging in a barn.

Life classes



One foreign woman journalist recently commented that it is only in England that you can make a good guess about a man's social background by studying the material from which his socks are made, and confirm it from the style of his underpants. Class differences, however, have a medical as well as sartorial significance, as different social groups have a very different susceptibility to diseases and psychological problems.

Registrar General social classes four and five (essentially manual workers) have a very much higher incidence of nearly all the killer diseases, and in consequence have a markedly reduced expectation of life. In a report from the University of Southampton Dr D.J.P. Barker and Ms Julie Morris have found a close correlation between appendicitis and the provision of bathrooms, hot water and lavatories. The poorer the housing, the lower the standard of hygiene possible, and the more likely the patient is to suffer from gastro-intestinal and chest infection, and appendicitis, which it appears is a sequel to these infections. As standards of housing have improved the number of cases of appendicitis have fallen dramatically.

Another report, from Oxford University (published in the *British Medical Journal*) finds sexual problems in women to be related to,

among other factors, age and social class. Not unexpectedly the older the woman is the greater her likelihood of experiencing difficulties. Impaired sexual interest, a loss of enthusiasm for sex as opposed to physical response, showed a definite correlation to a woman's class; 12 per cent of the women designated by the registrar general as belonging to classes one and two (essentially of the professional class), and randomly selected from two Oxford group practices, had a loss of libido; the numbers rose to 18 per cent of class three patients (blue collar level and its equivalents), and 25 per cent in those from social classes four and five.

Although the Oxford psychiatrists who carried out the survey suggested that general practitioners should look out for sexual problems among women patients, they added that few appeared to express any desire for treatment.

Television viewers will have also noticed that the Americans giving evidence remark on Hollis's hunch back, rarely if ever mentioned by British writers. A hunchback deformity is often associated with idiopathic kyphoscoliosis, a hereditary disease, giving rise to abnormal curvature of the spine. However, Sir Roger's deformity, more hunched than hunchback, may have been one of the last examples of one produced by tuberculosis, from which he suffered while he was in China and which could be treated adequately only 10 years later.

Prolonged tubercular disease in one lung was apt to result in contracture of the rib cage on that side and would, like idiopathic kyphoscoliosis, produce a slight hunch. TB, as it spreads to the backbone, causes decay in the vertebrae and can result in collapse of the spine, producing an even more marked rounding of the back.

In severe cases this can give rise to a silhouette rather like that of a vulture. It is interesting to speculate how Sir Roger's tuberculosis, which necessitated being invalided home, might have altered his approach to life and politics.

Pain in the back

Avid readers of *Spycatcher*, Chapman Pincher, or Rupert Allason (Nigel West) will have learnt little new of the case against Sir Roger Hollis of MI5 by watching the television "trial". However, they will have been fascinated by the letters written by him when a comparative young man in China to his fiancée. He starts with a very unemotional Dear... and his opening paragraph, rather than containing a few friendly, passionate or even personal

Clearing the smear

Ten years ago, when Dr Elizabeth Macgregor tested her patients for cervical cancer, she felt she was giving them something worthwhile. She no longer feels that way.

Cervical cancer is the only malignant disease that can be successfully treated in its pre-cancerous stages. The test itself is simple and painless; the procedures and treatments that surround it are confused and inconsistent.

The Labour health spokesman, Harriet Harman, last month criticized the lack of a computerized call and re-call system, which all health authorities were supposed to have introduced by last month following a Department of Health instruction; Edwina Currie, the health minister, says it is lack of organization rather than finance that is causing problems.

Macgregor, who is leading a five-year project, funded by the charity Birthright, to answer vital questions about how the disease develops, feels the screening system does require better organization. "If we were making best use of resources — and we are not — we would know whether more money was needed." Although Macgregor retired from National Health Service practice in 1985, Birthright took the unusual step of making it a condition of the £250,000 grant that she co-ordinated the research.

A highly respected pathologist and an expert on cervical cancer, she admits she is now rather ashamed of the screening programme which seemed to promise so much. "Now there are so many different methods of dealing with abnormal smear results so much overload in the laboratories and such awful delays in getting treatment, that we are no longer offering a good service. She is not, however, plan-

Cervical screening has become so confused that doctors are to re-examine tests



Leading a five-year project: Dr Elizabeth Macgregor

ning to join the medical Jeremiahs who want the system scrapped. Cervical screening may be flawed, she says, but it is undoubtedly saving lives, and it could save many more. Macgregor and her team hope to establish how the disease develops, and how women with mildly abnormal smears can be most effectively treated. According to the Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for England, published last September, the number of positive (mildly, moderately or severely abnormal) cervical smears has tripled in the past 10 years. At the same time, the number of smears has increased by 54 per cent.

Many doctors believe it safe to leave women with mild to moderately abnormal smear results untreated, while offering them regular repeat smears. But because the "no treatment" regime has not been scientifically established, doctors in some parts of the

country prefer to treat all such women in hospital.

This involves examination of the cervix under a medical microscope (colposcope), often followed by either laser or freezing (cryosurgery) treatments to destroy the abnormal cells. As a result, many outpatient clinics are overwhelmed with women who, some doctors believe, don't need to be there. These women face months of anxiety before they are given their treatment and the all-clear.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that many women prefer to go to private clinics like the London Cervical Screening Centre, which offers a test for £18.50.

Macgregor expects her study to resolve many of these issues. The first part of the project will investigate 500 Aberdeen women who had mildly to moderately abnormal smears 10 years ago. The original tests will be removed from cold storage and re-assessed, and the women from whom they were taken will be asked to come back for a further smear. They will also be asked questions about their lifestyles then and now. Another 500 women who had a normal smear in 1978 will act as a control group.

At the same time, Dr Ann Ludbrook, a health economist, will study the cost effectiveness of cervical screening, and Dr Stephen Bell, a psychologist, will look at the psychological impact of the wait for treatment.

Meanwhile, a similar project at several centres, including the Whittington Hospital, London, will look at the progress of 600 women whose smear results were mildly abnormal five years ago, but only half of whom received treatment.

Ann Kent

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At the present time in the United Kingdom there are more than 3,500 patients on some form of renal dialysis treatment waiting for a kidney transplant. The number of transplants carried out in 1987 was less than half this figure. Some patients have waited for many years; some will die on dialysis.

The waiting list of patients for hearts, lungs and livers is much smaller, and totals 350. There is a grim reason for this much smaller figure: without transplants these patients die.

It is clear that there is a need for many more organs. There are potential donors in this country, but often no effort is made to find out what the wishes of the possible donor were in his lifetime and if unknown, what the wishes of the family are in death.

There are two questions to be asked: does the existing system for securing organs for transplantation work? And is there a need for change?

There can really be no doubt that the existing methods do not work. In this country we use an opt-in system — each of us is invited to declare whether we wish our organs to be transplanted when we die. This invitation is contained in educational programmes and publicity measures, run by transplant units and by the Department of Health, with the organ donor card scheme. Approximately 80 per cent of the British population favour organ donation, and yet fewer than 20 per cent carry donor cards.

There are a number of computerized registries of people willing to be donors. But the schemes themselves are of only modest assistance, for several reasons: a positive action is required by the individual to place his name on the registry and the registry will be of no use unless someone within the hospital caring for the donor is prepared to consult the registry and then to ask the family. At the present time in the United

SECOND OPINION

Ross Taylor

Kidney donors please

Kingdom the carrying of a donor card is considered not to be legal authority for removal of organs. Sometimes families of a card-carrier have refused consent for organ donation.

There have been other suggested forms of opt-in, such as the declaration of intent on a UK driving licence; on the five yearly census forms; and even the placing of inconspicuous tattoos. The driving licence method has recently been withdrawn because it does not conform to EEC regulations. The Government will not use the census. Tattoos require a very positive act, and problems arise after a change of mind. Other countries like Belgium and France have adopted an opt-out system. Opting-out means that each of us is assumed to be a willing organ donor unless we previously register our wish not to be.

But the solution to the problem is very simple and is contained in the system now adopted in the United States, called required request or routine request: whenever a person on a ventilator is declared dead, there is a requirement of the doctors caring for him to find out what his wishes were with regard to organ transplantation in life, and if that is not known, what the wishes of the family are at his death.

Opponents of routine re-

quest say that in some way it is an infringement of rights and contains compulsion, but the only compulsion is upon medical staff to ensure that a simple question is asked at the appropriate time.

Another argument suggests that if routine request were adopted there would be such an increase in donors that the resources of intensive care units would be stretched, but transplantation is economically so sound that the money saved in removing patients from expensive dialysis to transplantation could be used to provide additional resources for intensive care units.

Not all patients on ventilators can be donors (for example patients with extensive malignant diseases) and any legislation should contain a clause to the effect that in such cases the transplant team should be consulted and should agree that it is unnecessary to consult the family before the ventilator is disconnected. Asking for organs from recently bereaved families, contrary to popular belief, does not always add to their distress; failing to offer the opportunity for organ donation neglects a very real need within the families.

The recent report of the Conference of the Medical Royal College on organ donation does not recommend routine request because it seems afraid of antipathy within the medical profession, although it does acknowledge that the principle of asking families is correct.

The British public have given the Government a huge mandate in support of transplantation. A Private Member's Bill, advocating routine request, is scheduled for its second reading on April 15. If everyone who agrees that we all have the right to decide about donation writes to his MP and the Minister of Health, then the Government would surely need to respond. Ross Taylor is consultant surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne

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Terence Moore, *TLS* February 12 1988
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TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

TIMES DIARY

ANTHONY SMITH

The last thing you need the day before you take a holiday is for something interesting to happen. But it has done. The replica carriage from the Agit Prop Train, named in its day the "V.I. Lenin", has suddenly taken form at its allotted space in the new Museum of the Moving Image on London's South Bank.

The builders worked from photographs of the original vehicle, which spread the news of revolution to the remotest corners of the Soviet Union. On the train there was a laboratory as well as a cinema. The revolutionaries filmed the peasants, developed and printed the results and showed them to startled audiences as the train moved across the vast Soviet terrain. It is a fascinating and important moment of the history of cinema for anyone wanting to follow the history of 20th century methods of political propaganda.

Our constructors, Kimpton Walker, have produced the academically correct track profiles, wheels, sleepers, colours and perilous access steps; we shall provide an academically correct (living) Soviet train guard to help you up them, equipped with an equally correct Equity card. In the train, which is covered inside with contemporary posters, you will be able, seated on rough-hewn wooden benches, to watch Soviet classics of the 1920s. Roll on opening day.

At the same moment a piece of British political history was being installed in our new film conservation vaults out at Berkhamstead, constructed through the generosity of Paul Getty Jnr (whom God preserve). Eight thousand cans, taken into the National Film Collection from British Coal, constitute a visual record of a whole highly politically sensitive industry, going back many decades to the very moment of nationalization, and covering every significant stage of its technical history.

The haul includes all the industry's newsreels, recording the management's view of events week by week, as well as the many Durham Miners' Galas and films of miners' social life. The collection probably represents the one comprehensive moving image account of a life of a great industry seen from the inside, and we regard its acquisition as a coup.

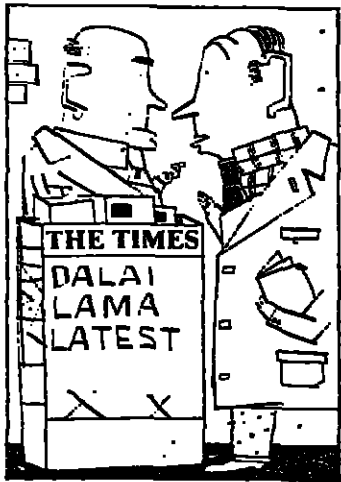
Among the 8 million feet of film which are still to be sorted and catalogued is a very rare copy of a documentary directed by Paul Robeson. I can't wait to see it.

There is an expression which converges at certain moments in the whole range of faces of friends, colleagues, even unto the postman, the milkman and the window cleaner, all looking askance as if to register advice already administered. It says: "Get away from all this and take a holiday." I have obeyed but find that the magnet of coincidence widens its spread in proportion, it sometimes seems, to the distance one now travels for pleasure. Your real life keeps coming back at you even if you go yak-sporting in Peru or watching the sun come up in Samoa.

The coincidences in Victorian novels set in Belgium, Swiss and Italian resorts are wholly credible, but modern coincidence is somehow not credible at all. It somehow just isn't real to bump into familiar acquaintances in the Himalayas, by the funeral pyres of Benares, beside the bubbling pots of street food vendors in the smaller villages of Madhya Pradesh. Today we carry with us (we equals West European ABIs) a constant potential for finding echoes of our lives wherever we go on the planet. No one and nowhere are immune to this strengthening world force of social coincidence.

I often wonder whether there are people or places who are the magnets for these eerie moments, when you meet your next-door neighbour in a distant place or overhear in exotic locations conversations about people you know. It is of course a thrill to hear people 6,000 miles from home, discussing something you've written. But when you discover that the person at the next table is referred to in the book you've been reading or that the hotel proprietor is married to a never-mentioned sister of a close friend, your neck hair bristles. Coincidence is indeed a cogent force, not a trivial phenomenon. It's latency at all times is a powerful glue. It is one of the things that prevents you from ever leaving yourself behind.

BARRY FANTONI

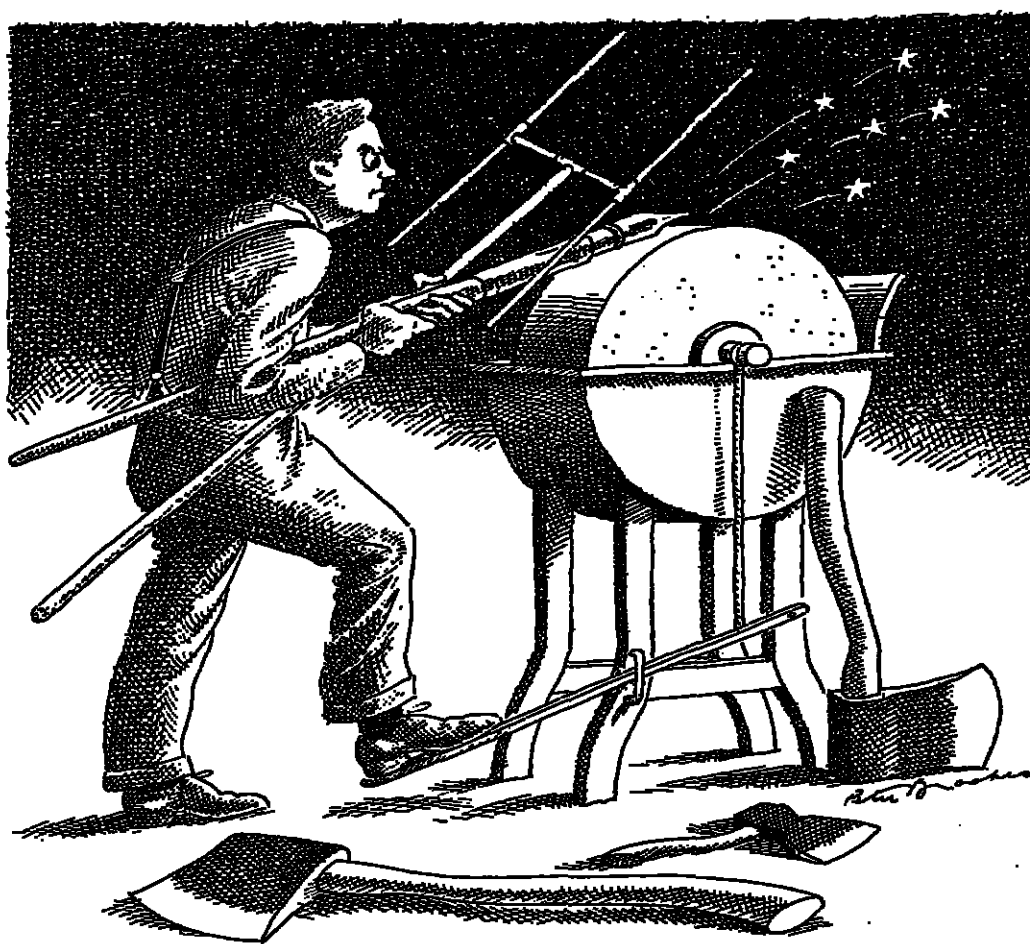


"Of course, the Government would be happier were he a Trappist"

In a slightly derelict Anglican church in northern India I have come across a wonderfully concise definition of the most admired virtues of a largely vanished class of British people. In themselves the values are of course universal, but they belong to a way of life which circumstance has placed somehow out of reach; for those who have no affinity, by education, gentility or inclination, with the social group that gave rise to them, the statement is all the more moving, because it represents something both ineffable and ungraspable. It is on a memorial plaque which records the virtues of a 49-year-old major in the 22nd Regiment who, by force of character and clearness of judgement added to a pure and unvarying benevolence, which neither prosperity nor misfortune could impair, obtained an unsought influence over all around him as beneficent as it was modestly exercised — an influence whether to soothe, to succour or to reconcile, which was never invoked & seldom exercised in vain. Perhaps British Brahmins are the only true untouchables.

Newsmen in need of rules

John Birt, Deputy Director-General of the BBC, analyses the ills besetting press and broadcasting, from inaccuracy to axe-grinding, and recommends some remedies



The ethical foundation of British journalism is not firm. Craft standards are slipping. British media operate under a system of law which undervalues our legitimate role. The institutions we report on, particularly the state, are too secretive.

All told, British journalism is not in healthy condition, and is not capable of serving or being allowed to serve society as it should. Until we in the media put our house in order we shall not win the argument for a free flow of information. If we do not put our house in order, more restrictions are likely, and we risk a spiral of decline.

When the Princess of Wales was pregnant in 1982, a newspaper published holiday pictures of her wearing a bikini. The next day, the paper noted there was a suggestion the pictures had in some way transgressed the Royal Family's privacy, and apologized — the apology illustrated by reprints of the offending photographs.

A few days after a particularly brutal rape, the victim had her picture snatched by a photographer from a national daily as she was leaving church. The picture duly appeared, her identity barely disguised.

Some of our popular papers regularly contain stories which invade the privacy of individuals for no reason of public interest, which show insufficient concern for good taste and decency, which on occasion are outright inventions.

We have lapses of standards in broadcasting, too. But they are not on the same scale, and they tend to occur more from individual misjudgement, or poor management in particular areas, than from a general failure to develop a code of ethics. There is a long tradition at the BBC, for instance, of producing detailed guidance and guidelines for journalists. We are reviewing these guidelines and adding to them in response to changing attitudes.

The BBC will also produce policies on the use of sexist language and the reporting of events with a racial dimension. The language we use must be neither partisan nor emotive.

We have been examining our use of labels, particularly in relation to political groupings. Terms such as "hard left" and "extremist" carry with them an undercurrent of disapproval, whereas the word "moderate" seems to imply a level-headed balance. It will be the BBC's aim to describe groups in a way which is accurate and value-free.

When the review is complete, the BBC's guidelines — the ethical code which underpins our journalism — will be published. We can see no reason to keep it secret.

The Press Council was set up 35 years ago. It is a voluntary body created by the newspaper proprietors of the time in response to the threat of a statutory body. The Council itself presses for good standards, and has had some beneficial impact, particularly on the regional and local press. But unlike broadcasting, the Council does not have a comprehensive code

of ethics. What directions it does make are increasingly ignored by some sections of the national press, and its judgements are often treated with contempt. As a voluntary body it has no power to impose its penalties; and it can no longer rely upon the strength of its moral authority to instil higher ethical standards in the press.

It has, for example, condemned payments to relatives or associates of criminals. But last year, a newspaper bought up the stories of three women. Each had been the girlfriend of a man convicted of serious crimes: multiple murder, rape and attempting to blow up an airliner. The Council duly ruled that there was no serious or overriding public interest in publishing these three stories.

The Press Council has limited ambitions; but it does not always achieve even them.

So far I've been talking about how the media deal — or fail to deal — with the knotty ethical problems of our profession. But what of the quality, the craft, of the journalism itself? Some of our popular papers present an easy target. But what of the rest of the national newspapers? A welcome newcomer has joined the depleted ranks of those who still do aspire to — and do for the most part achieve — quality of craft. But I detect worrying signs, even in some broadsheets, of a drift in standards.

On occasion, too little care is taken over fact. Anonymous allegation and rumour are reported unchecked. Sometimes a late check is made and a blunt and brief denial is placed at the end of a story, confusingly. But an untruth and a denial do not balance. I fear that the painstaking, wide-ranging drive to get to the bottom of a story, to search for the truth, is slipping slowly out of fashion.

Where then is impartiality and a sense of fair-play in the press? It can still be found; but increasingly common is the sound of grinding axes, from proprietors, editors and individual correspondents, shifting the balance away from journalism where the fruits of the inquiry allow the reader to form his own opinion, towards journalism conducted in support of previously held opinions about people, institutions and ideas. A blast of well-argued opinion, strongly held and from whatever quarter, is a pleasure to read — on the comment page. And journalism of opinion has its place too. But we are in need of more journalism of inquiry, and a greater seriousness of purpose in our national press.

Are craft standards better in broadcasting? More broadcast journalism needs to match the expertise and sense of discovery of the best of the written press. We are more scrupulous, however, about fact than some of our colleagues in print, though not always scrupulous enough. I am sorry to say, though, that impartiality in broadcast journalism is a withering plant in need of some sustaining care and attention. And many broadcasters certainly do have a keener sense of fairness to their contributors. There are too

many stitch-ups in our studios and on our films too many contributors who vow never to return.

The modern BBC is proud to identify itself with the classic journalistic values of accuracy, impartiality and fair-mindedness. We shall emphasize the need for accuracy: to double-check even rudimentary facts; to cross-check the controversial; to seek standards of evidence in relation to damaging allegations which will withstand a legal test. We shall emphasize the importance of impartiality: of giving due weight to significant opinion on all sides of an argument when programmes cover controversial matters. Despite its obligations under the Broadcasting Act, that's what *World in Action* failed to do a few weeks ago in its programme on the BBC. We have nothing to learn from such a polemic. It was a good example of a standard of journalism we don't want to see on the BBC.

We shall emphasize fair-mindedness: that is, giving those in a programme against whom allegations or criticisms are made a proper sense of the charges and a reasonable opportunity to rebut them as well as to be tested firmly about them.

An emphasis on such values — vigorously applied — should not lead to bland journalism. It should lead to surprising findings and to unpalatable thoughts; to the exposure of wrong-doing and to the revelation of mismanagement. It should lay bare muddled thinking or inadequate policies. It may also expose uncomfortable choices, and the advantages and disadvantages that accompany all proposed courses of action.

The classic BBC virtues are in particular evidence on Radio 4 where an impressive corps of specialist correspondents at home and abroad supplies expert journalism to an astonishing

The pursuit of accurate, impartial and inquiring journalism of quality comes easiest to those who have open minds, a sense of humility and respect for the complexity of problems and their causes

array of daily, weekly and occasional outlets, and in a tone of reason and dispassion that makes it a national treasure-house. Television can benefit from radio's experience.

The pursuit of accurate, impartial, fair and inquiring journalism of quality on television and elsewhere comes easiest to those who have open minds; a sense of humility about the permanence of understanding and the fluidity of circumstances and ideas; a respect for the complexity of problems and their causes; a willingness to get out and about and to do some hard work. It comes hardest to those imbued with a disdain for, and not just a healthy suspicion of, established centres of power; and with a preference for pontificating rather than for discovery. Television needs more of the former and fewer of the latter.

Another strain of thought, with more respectable credentials, has influenced and to some extent infected the debate about British television journalism: the developing culture of the "investigative" journalist. Note that I say the culture, and not the honourable practice. There are some memorable characters I've known and worked with, who were born suspicious. On occasions, they are proved triumphantly right and they tell the rest of us startling and unlikely but true facts that have major implications for institutions and for policy.

The tradition veers off course, however, when it forfeits its place in a broad-based service of journalism, attuned to a wide spread of events, and starts to assume that only journalism which produces villains has any validity. This is a bleak, black vision, which some of the tradition's best exemplars now seem to share.

Most journalism of value involves mixing for gems that no one is trying particularly hard to stop you discovering, but which are painfully difficult and which require real skill to pick out. Television journalism must be concerned with a huge array of activities. Most important of all it must scrutinize the problems that confront society, the people and institutions whose task it is to deal with those difficulties; and the ideas that are proposed for their resolution.

There is another problem with the investigative culture: there are now too many who assume that an alleged fact must be true if it bears out a suspicion. To such journalists I say: throw away your hatchets and buy a scalpel.

I fear it will be only a matter of time before there are further controls on the print media and these could apply to broadcast media too. The risk is that these controls will take the form of laws enforced by the courts or of regulatory bodies set up by statute. Courts and quangos would be blunt and unwieldy instruments to deal with the scale and subtlety of the problem. The necessary rights and legitimate activities of good journalists could be eroded in the process. Or, put more precisely, even further eroded.

How are the media to avoid impositions which could restrict their legitimate activities? A determined and radical move towards self-regulation is the answer. First, the press should give the Press Council wider authority and new powers. The new Council should develop guidelines covering every aspect of journalistic practice, values and ethics, taste and standards. All newspapers and journals which are members of the Council should enter into legally binding contracts to observe its rules and to accept its sanctions. The Council's new powers should include the right to make directions about the prominence, as well as the wording, of retractions and rights of reply; and the right to levy substantial fines on newspapers for persistent offence, or for failure to comply with rulings. What of those who might not wish to sign up? In a voluntary system they could not be forced to; but in the

long run there would be peer group pressure — even the pressure of peers: worse still, the lack of peers!

Second, there should be a new voluntary forum — a Council of the Media — where the revamped Press Council, the IBA, the new Radio Authority, the Cable Authority, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, the proposed Broadcasting Standards Council and the BBC would discuss questions of editorial policy and ethics, and harmonize their approach where there is a need for consistency. The Council of the Media could also make common cause — as the media have so often failed to do — on questions of media law reform and other matters of common concern, like journalistic training.

Third, individual newspapers and broadcasting organizations could each introduce an Ombudsman. Thirty-six newspapers in America have one.

If British broadcasting had found a way of dealing with complaints with credibility, it might have avoided the rigidities of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission that was eventually imposed upon it. The Commission has not always shown itself sensitive to the proper needs of journalists, as its posture on the advance submission in some instances of questions to interviewees has demonstrated. Perhaps broadcasting might still retrieve some ground by embracing an Ombudsman system. It is something the BBC will ponder. If newspapers were to embrace an Ombudsman system they might ward off something worse.

Fourth, individual journalists must strive for high standards — the sources of purpose and firmness of principle we associate with the professions, and which we can note to some extent among American journalists working on major papers and national journals. It would not be possible — or indeed right — for journalists to set themselves up as an exclusive self-regulating profession. An alternative would be a longer and more formal period of training, to give them not only a thorough grounding in journalistic practice but in ethics too, underpinned by formal national qualifications: a recognized national diploma perhaps, or even a Bachelor of Journalism degree. Ideally, the word "journalist" should carry as much weight as "lawyer".

Fifth, a small but significant innovation would be to introduce into the British media the American notion of the "fact-checker". A fact-checker is an encouragement to accuracy in general and is a safeguard in particular against inaccuracies being propelled ever onward through constant reference by busy journalists to the cuttings file. This autumn, we shall introduce a fact-checker to the BBC television news operation.

The media, if they so chose, could put their own house in order. They should work towards a greater sense of integrity, reliability and fairness, all for its own sake. We should have decent media. Society would show its approval if there were a way it could. But another problem remains. The media won't be wholly decent in the more colloquial sense of the word — adequate for their purpose — unless and until they and others tackle the problems I want to outline tomorrow.

This article is an abridged version of the Fleming Memorial lecture which Mr Birt gave to the Royal Television Society last night.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Airing the issues

On the face of it, John Prescott's challenge to Roy Hattersley for Labour's deputy leadership is more embarrassing to Mr Kinnock than the joint Benn-Heffer candidature for his own and Hattersley's jobs. For whereas Benn and Heffer will be resoundingly defeated, Prescott will almost certainly give Hattersley a hard run.

A Prescott victory is improbable, but if Hattersley wins only narrowly that will be a serious blow to Kinnock's own credibility after his total endorsement of Hattersley — though he could hardly have done less — and his rebuff to Prescott. Yet despite all this, it's the Benn-Heffer challenge that really matters, for Prescott's is based essentially on personalities and on rival concepts of the job, whereas the Benn-Heffer challenge is starkly based on an ideological difference. On this, Hattersley has publicly revealed, he and Heffer agree. It is, moreover, an ideological quarrel which will not go away once the contest is over. If Labour won the next election, Kinnock's pragmatic "moderation" would be under constant attack by the atavistic left-wing socialism which Benn represents. The size of the Benn-Heffer support, therefore, will help the public to assess the significance of the harassment that Kinnock would continue to face as prime minister.

This, however, is not the principal sense in which Messrs Benn and Heffer are doing an involuntary public service by standing against Kinnock. Much more important is what this ideological contest will reveal

about the policies which both sets of candidates would offer the nation. Benn is a great one for talking about issues and declaring himself to be loftily uninterested in personalities, but he is adept at discussing the issues in the rhetoric of a general appeal to socialist values and not in concrete terms.

If Kinnock can smoke him out to be more precise about his concept of the class struggle, his commitment to the importance of Karl Marx in Labour's thinking, his belief in "the common ownership of the commanding heights of the economy" (which Kinnock is apparently forsaking) and in party democracy (that is, the supremacy of the party machine over its elected representatives in Parliament), so much the better.

It would be helpful to know, for instance, whether the hard left, whose primary inspiration came from the impulses behind the Russian and Chinese revolutions, acknowledges any change of attitudes (towards market forces for instance) as a result of watching Mr Gorbachev and China's present leaders trying to inculcate new attitudes. Kinnock may help us to discover more about all this and about Benn's particular brand of unilateral disarmament.

Far more important, however, is the fact that Kinnock cannot logically expose Benn without differentiating himself more from his opponents and coming clearer about what he himself stands for. He cannot get to grips with a rival who purports to stand for the old socialism without disavowing it far more

precisely than it has suited him to do so far. He cannot fight Benn without discussing the issues, and how can he do that without disclosing more of the broad outlines of his own new policies?

He will have to say more about his view of where Labour stands on economic policy and planning, control of investment, nationalization, market freedom. The revised statement about Labour values still accepts the important place of market forces in the economy, and as the research groups work away one of the proposals is for graded tax bands, something like the West German, starting at 15 or 18 per cent. But that is not credible without a clear commitment to adjust public spending accordingly.

Above all, he will have to come clearer about his own ambiguous drift to unilateralism and the more he does so, the more he will offend not only Benn but many on the softer left who are uneasy with his more pragmatic approach.

The real significance of the contest lies in the hostages Kinnock will be forced to give to fortune and his attitude to Benn's insistence that policy-making remain the prerogative of the Labour conference, with its block votes.

The irony is that Kinnock and Benn both come from the same way of thinking, but Kinnock wishes to change in the pursuit of power. The question is how far he dare own up to the change to win over the public and how far he must disguise it to appease his party.

SCIENCE REPORT

Shelling out

Unhatched birds take different amounts of minerals from their eggshells, depending on their maturity at birth, according to a study in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*.

The study was carried out by zoologists and materials scientists from the University of Bath, working together to show how eggshells are eroded from the inside during incubation as the developing chick exploits the shell's reserves of calcium and magnesium to form its own bones.

The group at Bath examined the inner surfaces of eggshells at different stages of development using a scanning electron microscope. This shows details of their structure which may measure only a fraction of a thousandth of a millimetre.

The new research suggests a sharp distinction between species (called altricial) whose young hatch in an immature state to be nurtured by their parents in the nest and species whose young leave the nest almost immediately after hatching. The eggs of these precocial species are much more heavily eroded.

That is not surprising. The mineral content of eggshell is by far the most important source of calcium and magnesium for the chicks of precocial birds. The young of domestic chickens, in this group, get 30 per cent of their calcium and 80 per cent of their magnesium from the shell.



But the chicks of altricial birds depend more on food provided by the parents.

The new study shows that erosion of the inner eggshell surface is far from uniform. Instead, calcium is drawn from well-defined areas called mammillae protruding from the inner surface of the shell into the membrane of the egg. Although these structures are visible under the scanning electron microscope, chemical analysis has failed to reveal differences between the mammillae structures — the centres around which minerals accrete while the egg is forming — and the rest of the shell.

In the eggs of domestic hens and quail (both precocial), these mammillae bear the brunt of erosion during incubation. The tips and central

areas are worn away, leaving tiny craters and bubble-like structures. The mammillae help to anchor the mineral eggshell to organic layers beneath. In heavily eroded shells (such as those left by newly-hatched domestic chicks) these layers become detached from the shell itself, the weakened mammillae having been broken by movements of the chick.

With domestic chicks, there is little erosion until about 11 days into the three-week incubation period, but after 65 per cent of the incubation time in both hen and quail, the mammillae tips have disappeared. After 80 per cent of incubation time, the mammillae are found to be deeply scarred and pitted, with many tips broken off completely.

The researchers say this pattern of erosion could be important if all parts of an eggshell were plundered equally, erosion around the pore canals through which the egg breathes would increase water loss.

The same pattern has been found in the eggs of other precocial species, including waterfowl, but ostrich eggs show greater erosion around the sides of the mammillae than at the tips. But the eggs of altricial species such as kestrel, moorhen and white fantail pigeons survive more or less intact until hatching.

HENRY GEE

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PENTAGON TO PUNJAB..

Relations between India and Pakistan look menacing at the moment. The Indian army's sealing of the border between the two countries is a genuine cause for alarm. Although high tension is nothing new here, the current visit to the subcontinent by the United States Secretary of Defence, Mr Frank Carlucci, is well-timed.

The Indian army's move is an attempt to cut off the supply of arms to the Sikh terrorists operating in the Indian border state of Punjab. India has accused Pakistan of supplying the terrorists, and has claimed that these supplies have increased of late. Evidence of this, the Indians say, is the terrorists' improved firepower, which has allowed them to outgun the ordinary police, and to carry out their dreadful massacres.

Pakistan has always denied this charge, claiming that the terrorists are buying their arms on the huge open arms market of the area. In recent years the Pakistani authorities have been very cautious about meeting publicly with Sikh leaders. None the less, there is strong circumstantial evidence that Pakistan is, at least, tolerating the terrorists who cross its border into India. Mr Carlucci should make quite clear to Pakistan the folly and immorality of this, also the acute dangers to itself which stem from such behaviour.

India, while hating and fearing Pakistan, should now be seen by its neighbour as a satisfied power in territorial terms. Only if Indian unity is at stake is there the temptation for Indian politicians to try to bind their country by a successful foreign war.

There have long been sporadic voices in Delhi arguing that India should launch a "preventive war" to destroy the "terrorist bases" inside Pakistan (if formal bases exist, which is doubtful). If the Punjab crisis comes to look wholly insoluble, and if Pakistan is seen as having a hand in it, these can be expected to grow louder.

So far, India has held back, partly out of fear of the international repercussions, partly because of the cost, and partly because of the danger of a Chinese intervention. But the political landscape of the region is shifting. The key factor in India's restraint has been the

abundant supplies of American weaponry to Pakistan which have made it by no means certain that India would win.

The main reason for this American generosity has been the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. As this comes to an end, the Pakistani Government is afraid that its special relationship with Washington may follow suit. This gives Mr Carlucci great leverage over President Zia, which he should use to the full.

It may be, of course, that Mr Gandhi will succeed in bringing about a political settlement in Punjab. As we pointed out last week, however, his present initiative in the state is a last-ditch effort. Although his intended negotiating partner, Mr Jasbir Singh Rode, does seem to be making a real effort to bring the Sikh militants to the negotiating table, and to have had some success with two of them, the other three main terrorist groups seem likely to reject any conceivable settlement.

Their ambitions for the extent of their hoped-for state of Khalistan (including, Pakistan might note, large areas of its territory also) are as vast as they are wholly without reason. His own extremist background makes it hard for Mr Rode to come very far to meet the Indian Government's position.

The next overtures are expected to be made on or around April 13, the date of the Sikh Spring Festival, when Mr Rode has called a Sikh conference at Talwanti Sabo. But the auguries are poor. Too many intransigents are waiting to drown any settlement in blood. If the negotiations fail, and if Mr Carlucci cannot force an end to the arms trade from Pakistan, the world should prepare itself sooner or later for a fresh Indian clampdown in Punjab.

The systematic oppression of the Sikh community would be bound to arouse international indignation. But people in the West, and above all Sikhs living outside India, should clearly realize that in the last resort India must prevail. If the Sikh extremists ever did succeed in tearing Punjab out of India, it could sound the death knell of the whole Indian Union. The disintegration of India would bring bloodshed and international danger on a scale not seen since the Second World War.

PARIS TO MASHAD

Meanwhile closer to home, speculation over a French deal to free their remaining hostages from Lebanon is intensifying. Following last month's decision to release a suspected terrorist in Paris, the recent movements of both ministers and officials have served only to confirm the general suspicion that another more comprehensive package is being arranged.

If France is ready to end any last hopes of achieving a united European front in the war against terrorism, it deserves (and will surely get from Britain) the strongest condemnation. But that may not stop the electioneering M. Chirac.

The likely price for Paris is reported to be a large ransom and the resumption of diplomatic relations with Iran. These were severed last summer when an official of the Iranian Embassy refused to co-operate with French police investigating the previous year's fearful bombing campaign in Paris. By agreeing to resume them so easily and so soon, France would play directly into the hands of the Tehran regime.

The French Prime Minister is struggling in the run-up to the presidential election — the first round of which is now less than three weeks distant. Few doubt that the safe return of any hostages would give M. Chirac a powerful advantage in his bid to unseat his Socialist rival President Mitterrand. A complaint from within Tehran that President Mitterrand himself is trying to frustrate any deal negotiated by his Prime Minister serves only to confirm the impression that the hostages are about to be used as bargaining counters in a

game of national politics and international intrigue.

It would not be the first time that M. Chirac has acted in this way. At the end of this year he released an Iranian diplomat, suspected of terrorism, in exchange for two other hostages from Beirut. Then came last month's decision by a judge to release their latest "captive" — despite furious opposition by the prosecution.

The West Germans too admitted last year to doing business with the terrorists — just before another German businessman was kidnapped. This is despite repeated assurances by European leaders that they will not flinch in the face of the "men of violence." Mrs Thatcher has already made clear to M. Chirac that this country would take a serious view of further surrender to the terrorists in Lebanon. Now it seems that her latest warnings too may have gone unheeded.

The timing of a French deal now would be doubly unfortunate — while hostages remain on the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner in Iran. Both Kuwait and Britain, the two countries most under pressure to give in to Arab demands, have so far refused to bargain — and rightly so. Their position would be disastrously undermined if France surrendered.

The bartering of the French hostages in Beirut would endanger the lives of the others who remain. It would show that terrorist crime pays handsomely. Terrorists act without law, and often without reason too, but they understand the politics of gain. Wherever they are, only by denying them gain, can they and their cause be beaten.

WHOSE CHIP IS IT ANYWAY?

If European industry is to compete in new electronic technologies with the United States and Japan, individual companies need to collaborate with each other to share costs and combine expertise. That is common ground in the European Community and has become the cornerstone of Britain's new national approach to industrial research and development aid.

The Department of Trade and Industry recently abandoned aid for individual companies. Instead it has offered £29 million over the next three years for national collaborative ventures in information technology, backed in some areas by £55 million from the Department of Education and Science. After much huffing and puffing, Britain is also to put £200 million over five years into the latest Esprit programmes of the European Community.

One problem with this logic, however, is that companies are often far too suspicious of each other to collaborate in areas where they might otherwise hope to steal a march on their domestic rivals. The collapse of the joint venture between Plessey and GEC to build up a British capacity in mass production of gallium arsenide microchips is a case in point. Plessey withdrew from the project before the £25 million of government aid was spent essentially because it thought it could already compete in the world on its own.

This is not necessarily a failure. Government aid is there to fill potentially profitable gaps left after individual companies have pursued their own interests. If Plessey can go it alone, the earmarked money can be switched to where it is needed.

The commercial potential of gallium arsenide may also have changed. It has the advantage of allowing microchips to operate at faster than those based on silicon, though at greater expense. Thus far, it has only been used for specialized applications, not least in defence electronics. That is why the industry and the DTI moved to ensure Britain did not

lag in a potential new generation of large-scale microchip production as it had in silicon chips. In the event, however, silicon technology has advanced apace, keeping its practical lead over what is a theoretically superior technology.

The history of rivalry between Plessey and GEC is, however, legendary. The two have finally pooled their telecommunications interests, but only after damaging delays.

Such rivalries are not confined to Britain's shores. A plan to merge the medical electronics interests of GEC and the Dutch multinational Philips failed for the same reason. The joint European semi-conductor silicon programme is already faltering over suspicions between Germans and French. The Germans fear that such projects always seem to end up in French control.

This is all far from the Japanese experience. There, government orchestrates co-operation between domestic rivals with a firm hand and companies seem to have little difficulty combining a common interest in the success of Japanese industry and technology with fierce competition at home.

Britain has little alternative than to pursue collaborative ventures at a national and European level in a traditionally more hostile industrial culture. And alongside the rows and failures, there are successes. Collaboration between the DTI, Plessey and Racal, for instance, has helped a British-Scandinavian narrow band cellular radio system become the European standard, at modest public cost.

By the end of next week, the DTI will have received industry's reaction to its new draft plan for co-operative research in three important new areas pinpointed by the electronics industry itself. This will no doubt lead to more haggling and personal rivalries. These damage industry's efforts to secure government support, let alone raise it to the levels which companies so often say they would like.

Rylands library sales defended

From the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University
Sir, In their letter (April 2) about the John Rylands Library sale Lord Eccles and others claim that the University of Manchester is breaking a trust intended to benefit the city. The exact opposite is the case.

For many years the John Rylands Library has remained a mausoleum, unrecognized by most Mancunians. We have identified second copies which we have every legal right to sell. The disturbance to the Christie and Spencer collections is minimal. All the money from the sale is to be spent on the John Rylands Library, on conservation, exhibitions and cataloguing.

We have located all second copies available, and there will be no further sale. Benefactors can rest assured that their collections will not be sold; the main difference is that in future we will have money to make them accessible to scholars.

This is an enterprising inner-city development to create a dynamic library worthy of this great city. We believe Mrs Rylands would be on our side. Yours sincerely, BRIAN COX (Chairman of the Library Committee), University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL, April 5.

Spiritual guardians

From Mr A. F. JESSON
Sir, Alan Coren's wagger at 33 to 1 against finding a patron saint of bookmakers (Daily March 30) may be reasonably safe, but his typesetters are triply covered by saints Augustine, Genesis and John of God, the last of whom is also responsible for booksellers.

These three saints are all patrons of the whole printing process and may therefore be invoked by those processing words on computer screens. In fact, as Genesis is also the patron of secretaries he may be invoked by those whose technology is not as advanced as electronic composition.

St John the Evangelist and Apostle is considered by some authorities to be the patron of "all involved in the production of books" and could therefore semantically be responsible by extension for a pious turf accountant, but his customers could have other ideas, depending on their view of his piety.

For those customers who think betting is as safe as houses perhaps St Matthew, patron of bankers and accountants, would suffice, whereas for the more timorous St Christopher, invoked for safe journeys, might well spring to mind.

Those concerned with the well-being of the horse may find either St Hippolytus or St George efficacious, and we should not forget St Jude, patron of lost causes and desperate cases, as being another likely to have an effect on the racing season. Yours faithfully, ALAN F. JESSON, Bible Society's Librarian, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge, March 30.

Musical deluge

From Mr Rowland Oakeley
Sir, Three cheers for Martin Cropper (TV review, March 28) who asked, "One would like to know why practically everything on television, from harmless documentaries to golden goals, is deemed to need the decoration of synthesised music or, indeed, any music at all?"

Why, indeed? Do naturalists go around the countryside, or guides round country houses, with blaring transistor radios? Of course they do not. Why, then, must we endure music with nature, archaeological and similar films on television, often while the introducer is speaking?

Yours faithfully, ROWLAND OAKELEY, Gowerbank, Littleworth, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, March 29.

Mark of distinction

From Mr H. L. SALTER
Sir, Several years ago I attended a party given by a friend who was retiring after many years' service as manager of a large West End branch of one of the big banks.

He stood on a chair to address the assembled gathering. His opening gambit was that this was one of the finest moments of his life and, as he jumped on to his bowler hat which had been placed on the floor, smashing it to pieces, said that he had waited 12 years to do this.

Yours sincerely, H. L. SALTER, 207 South Norwood Hill, SE25, March 29.

Peterhouse plaint

From Dr P. W. M. Copeman
Sir, Lord Dacre's "assumptions" (March 30) concerning gentility are historically unscientific and curiously egotistic. A gentleman, by definition, is one entitled to bear arms, but he who is so honoured need not necessarily behave as a gentleman. Yours truly, P. W. M. COPEMAN, 82 Sloane Street, SW1, March 31.

Private interest in prison reform

From Lord Windlesham
Sir, Your leading article (April 4) on the cost of prison overlooked the potential importance of an item included in the Home Secretary's statement in the House of Commons on March 30. In addition to announcing a number of measures to contain the rising prison population, Mr Hurd said that he intended to publish a Green Paper on private-sector involvement in all aspects of the remand system and at the same time to engage consultants to help in working out the practical implications.

This innovation is timely and welcome. There are currently about 12,000 men and women in custody awaiting trial or sentence, amounting to nearly a quarter of all those in prison. Some may need the high security of the grossly overcrowded local prisons in which they are typically contained, but many do not. Moreover, the very term remand prisoner obscures a crucial distinction between the punishment of convicted prisoners and the pre-trial detention of persons accused of criminal offences punishable with imprisonment.

Accident units

From the President of the Casualty Surgeons Association
Sir, Those of us who work in accident and emergency (A&E) departments will not have been surprised by the findings of Dr Saunders (March 24) that a proportion of our patients attend with relatively non-urgent conditions. Many previous surveys have identified a similar discrepancy between a patient's prospective assessment of the urgency of a problem and a doctor's retrospective assessment when treatment has been completed.

This conflict is not easily resolved and even the introduction in some A&E departments of experienced triage nurses has not significantly diminished the number of patients who need to be registered and seen by a member of the medical staff.

Smoke hoods

From the Director General of the British Safety Council
Sir, I warmly welcome Harvey Elliott's article (March 31) on the dangers of so-called smoke hoods.

Following a spate of hotel fires in America, the Mediterranean coast and the UK in 1982, so-called smoke masks/hoods appeared on the market, giving the impression that they were perfect for escape or even rescue in case of fire.

Not one of the masks/hoods that we tested ourselves filtered out the most common smoke that one finds in fire.

We became very concerned that some of the companies in cor-

It is quite wrong that the conditions in which those on remand are confined are now indistinguishable in most respects from the restrictions on liberty imposed by the courts in the name of punishment.

The time has come to plan entirely separate facilities, outside the prison system, for the pre-trial detention of those who have been refused bail as well as for their escort to and from court. As the Home Secretary acknowledged, there may also be room for developing privately-managed bail hostels, providing a higher level of security than is currently available.

Although anathema to the vested interests determined to preserve the existing public-service monopoly in the staffing of prisons, administrative reforms on these lines offer the best hope of making a really significant contribution towards resolving the acute and continuing crisis of prison overcrowding. Yours faithfully, WINDLESHAM, House of Lords, April 5.

It is even less surprising that the number of these non-urgent patients should increase during the summer months, because many of them do not realise that they can register on a temporary basis with a local general practitioner if they are taken ill whilst on holiday away from home. However, even this facility is not available during evenings and weekends when A&E departments, many of them with insufficient staff, are under greatest pressure.

This association is bringing these problems to the attention of the Minister of Health, in the hope that some solutions can be found before the quality of care yields to the quantity of demand.

Yours faithfully, DAVID J. WILLIAMS, President, Casualty Surgeons Association, The Royal College of Surgeons, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, March 29.

porate membership of the British Safety Council were purchasing these devices with a view to passing them over to salesmen for use in hotels and aircraft.

We have just written to Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, asking that some kind of warning be issued to people who may have bought what is, after all, the false sense of security which is inherent in a smoke mask. But, in the meantime, we welcome your excellent article of March 31.

Yours faithfully, JAMES TYE, Director General, British Safety Council, National Safety Centre, Chancellor's Road, W6, March 31.

under the care of the local education authorities, has shared with that further education its general statutory purposes, but no longer. For the first time, the whole of higher education is to be provided for on a statutory basis (University HE being outside the 1944 Act, and now included), and it is to be without a statutory declared purpose.

There may, of course, be legitimate differences of view about the purposes of higher education, and therefore about how such a declaration should be framed. But clear options exist: it could be analogous to that for the other three phases; it could be in terms drawn from the purposes first enunciated by Robbins (instruction in skills, promotion of the general powers of the mind, the advancement of learning, and the transmission of... standards of citizenship); or it could follow the line of thinking developed in the Government's own White Paper of last year, in which there are six paragraphs on the aims and purposes of higher education.

It may not be easy, but difficulty is not an excuse, still less a reason, for a refusal to try, still less for leaving the whole of higher education, after the Bill, without any high declaration of purpose.

May I, Sir, through your column, urge all concerned to seek to ensure that higher education has its purpose(s) enshrined in law — purposes no lower in their ideals than those for schools and further education.

Yours faithfully, JOHN S. BEVAN, Felstead, 4 Woodland Way, Bidborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, March 26.

Voices unto the Lord

From Mrs E. M. Murray
Sir, With reference to Mr B. Harte's letter (April 4) on birdsong, meeting with over 100 other parishioners in our Fitchley churchyard at 5.30 am on Easter Sunday for the first Easter service we found the place full of birdsong even before the dawn.

Being so entranced by their music we omitted to ask if the birds were singing for Mrs Thatcher or the Bishop of Durham.

If Mr Harte joins us in London next Easter he has my permission to ask them. Yours faithfully, E. M. MURRAY (Churchwarden, St James's and St John's, Friern Barnet), 48 Alexandra Grove, N12, April 4.

Making all clear in the Lords

From Lord Rochester
Sir, Clause 17 of the Employment Bill is concerned with ballots on industrial action affecting different places of work.

When it was debated in the House of Lords on March 8 I sought without success to exclude the clause from the Bill, partly on the grounds that the House should not pass legislation couched in language so obscure that it might not be comprehensible to those affected by it.

In responding to an amendment moved by Lord McCarthy when the clause was discussed again on March 29, the Government spokesman, Lord Trefgarne, said (Hansard, col 543):

In relation to the subsection covered by the amendment, this means that separate ballots will not be required where the balloting constituency includes members employed by a number of employers if entitlement to vote is given to every member of the union employed by any one employer who shares an appropriate, common distinguishing factor with other members in the balloting constituency employed by the employer and does not share with any member employed by that employer who is not in the constituency. The common factor which distinguishes the group of members employed by one employer need not be the same factor used to distinguish the members employed by a second employer from those who are not entitled to vote.

I am sure the noble Lord will agree that that clarifies the matter beyond peradventure...

Plain words? Yours faithfully, ROCHESTER, House of Lords, April 2.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 7 1917

Within six weeks of the US declaring war provision was made to enlist a million men. On June 9 General Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American forces, arrived in London.

U. S. DECLARES WAR.

PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT. CREDITS FOR ARMY AND NAVY.

\$680,000,000 TO BE DEMANDED.

The United States of America are now at war with Germany. Congress having passed the resolution declaring that a state of war exists with Germany, the Senate, by 82 yeas to six, and the House of Representatives by 373 to 50, President Wilson yesterday formally affixed his signature. Enormous credits are to be asked for the Army and Navy. Messages have been sent by the British War Cabinet, the French President, and Mr. Asquith to the United States expressing gratitude to, and sympathy with, American people.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) NEW YORK, APRIL 6

The die is now irrevocably cast. The United States is at war with Germany.

Half derisively, half fearfully, Germany is asking — according to accounts sent from Berlin — "What after all can a nation such as the United States, which is both mentally and physically unprepared for war, do against us?"

The reply to this contemptuous question is already assuming surprising dimensions. First of all the Government is prepared to spend over \$680,000,000 for its own initial war preparations. Over and above this amount it plans to lend to the Allies, as soon as they require it, far vaster sums at a rate of interest which will probably not exceed 3½ per cent.

The details of the first War Budget of the United States were officially revealed yesterday by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo. Here are the details:

- (1) To raise, organize, train, and equip within a year an army of 1,000,000 men — \$586,507,186;
- (2) To increase the enlisted strength of the Navy from its present authorized emergency strength of 87,000 men to a full war strength of 150,000 men, and to increase the Marine Corps from its present authorized emergency strength of 17,500 to a full war strength of 30,000 men — \$36,171,152;
- (3) Extraordinary expenditures on materials for naval establishment (including guns, ships, equipment, aviation, storage facilities, and ordnance supplies), \$58,587,758.

These are only preliminary items, for at the War Department it is pointed out that \$1,200,000,000 will be required for the Army, if after the first year its numbers are raised as contemplated to 2,000,000 men.

The Government intends to provide for large additional taxation. The income-tax, which is now very small, will probably be trebled, with heavy, possibly confiscatory, surtaxes on incomes of over \$20,000...

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Sounds of hope

BBC Television showed last night how different can be the sounds of silence as well as the bizarre noises produced by people making music. In *The Musical Mariner*, the first part of his two-part film for *Worldwide* (BBC2), David Fanshawe, the composer, musicologist and endearing eccentric, recorded various sounds of "silence", most strikingly the muted, less-than-dance of the dirt-encased wood men of Papua New Guinea.

Fanshawe, who made the award-winning *African Sanctus*, took us on part of his remarkable 10-year journey round the Pacific, recording ethnic — and less authentic — music, including the Papua New Guinea bamboo pipes, beautifully played with rubber flip-flop, accompanied by primitive electric guitars.

In *Breaking the Silence* (BBC1), for Q.E.D., the sound engineers tried to reproduce the internal noises — "a horrendous mixture of sounds" — heard by a 40-year-old woman, Christine Harding, when she went completely deaf. She underwent a cochlea implant operation to restore some hearing.

The programmes offered contrasting styles — the madcap character as narrator imposing his personality on another world and the subject drawing the audience in to her out-of-the-ordinary world with her own narration. Both helped us to empathize with the extraordinary.

Some of the "primitive" rituals seem very staid and normal compared with the frenzied prancing and pronouncements of Fanshawe, as he waved his extended microphone like a phallic totem. Christine Harding looked so attractive and sounded so calmly rational, as she explained her handicap, that any guilty resistance to the worthy voyeurism of filming the disadvantaged was removed.

Both films were full of hope and joy. The excitement of Harding when she heard something again was uplifting. Fanshawe, who enthused throughout, got married during the film and is basing a composition on his recording.

But there was also regret. Some of the music will soon survive only on Fanshawe's tapes; and cochlea implants are not available on the National Health.

Andrew Hislop

Good news

CINEMA

Broadcast News (15)
Odeon Haymarket

The Believers (18)
Leicester Square
Theatre

The Time to Live
and the Time to Die
ICA

James L. Brooks's *Broadcast News* looks at first as if it is going to be a bold exposé of television, but in the end it has nothing more original to say in this regard than that news reporting is show business like anything else; and that in the sincerity game that is fundamental to television, the secret of success is not to be a good man but to be a good actor.

The film belongs rather to the genre of the organization drama. Hollywood and television long ago discovered the dramatic potential of the politics of big business, the intrigues and coups d'état, executive rises and falls.

Here the arena is the Washington bureau of a television news network, with its local hierarchy always looking nervously towards the New York head office, ruled over by the autocratic chief editor and anchorman: an enjoyable comic performance by Jack Nicholson as a shifty-eyed elder statesman.

Brooks clearly knows the setting: in his early days he worked in a television newsroom. The intrigue he places in it is a romantic triangle that would be traditional and conventional, but for the special political mechanisms that condition the characters and their relationships within the organization.

Jane (Holly Hunter) is a crack news producer, neurotic (she is given to frequent attacks of crying) and hyper-efficient, tormented rather than stimulated by the conviction — very discouraging to the men around her — that she is smarter than anyone else on the block.

The men in her life are Aaron (Albert Brooks), an informed and gifted news reporter without a shred of conviction or charisma on the screen; and Tom (William Hurt), a former sports reporter, promoted to news anchorman.

Even if he doesn't know the Cabinet from a chest of drawers, and has to be talked through his broadcasts on an earphone, Tom has the gift of seducing the audience with his air of sincerity and grave authority. He is bound for the top of the media world.

In the corporate rat race these three take their falls and win their prizes — which do not, in Brooks's book, include romance. The characters work in too much proximity, under too much stress, too exposed to one another: the triangle is never resolved.

An epilogue, seven years after, reveals that each member of the original triangle has in the end found emotional fulfilment outside it. The epilogue, and a matching prologue showing the three central characters as children, their future characters clearly foreshadowed, are odd, awkward devices.

Brooks learned his craft in television soap opera (*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Lou Grant*) and still writes his characters in the broad, clean-cut stereotypes of the style. There is nothing inherently wrong in that; great drama has often been built on stereotypes; and in this case well-cast and excellent actors develop the predictable stereotypes into characters whom we believe, at least, to be humanly unpredictable in their behaviour.

Holly Hunter's incorrigible, tougher-than-the-boys career-woman is interesting and likeable, precisely because she sees herself clearly and detests her own type; equally, William Hurt's subtly narcissistic newsman seems genuinely to regret his shallowness and inability to commit himself to a relationship.

Albert Brooks (whose own films as director include the caustic *Lost in America*, *Modern Romance* and *Real Life*) is refreshingly combative and witty, not self-pity as a man who recognizes himself as one of life's losers. There are fine supporting performances, too, by Robert Prosky as a veteran news editor and Peter Hackes as the icy ruthless studio chief.

In the early scenes of *The Believers* it is easy to see what might have attracted John Schlesinger to the script, if, as he asserts, "an estimated three million Americans practise some form of

Santeria... Its origins are in the Yoruban religion of Nigeria, as the slaves adapted to their new lives in Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica and Central America, they combined the gods of their ancestors with the saints of their Catholic masters".

Mark Frost's script, from Nicholas Conde's novel *The Religion*, explores what happens when the benign magic turns to black, with human sacrifices and demonic possession. Schlesinger, with his keen outsider's view of America, predictably delights in such incongruities as New York police investigating ritual killings, a tough Cuban cop possessed by evil spirits, and an eruption of voodoo in a polite Manhattan socialite party.

In the early stages, when Martin Sheen as psychiatric counsellor to the police force (an essential service it would seem) is bringing cool science to bear on the phenomena, it is all quite promising. Around half way, however, the script gives in to prevailing vogues of schlock horror, with insects crawling out of people's cheeks and like horridness.

The grand finale is set, inexplicably, in one of those vast multi-storied industrial buildings — mazes of iron stairs and grilles and elevators — whose only purpose seems to be to house thriller set-pieces.

Schlesinger is at all times a compelling story-teller and a meticulous craftsman. Even the industrial site finale has a visual style that takes it out of the ordinary. His way with horror is subtle, eerie suggestion, rather than crude visceral shock. His skills deserve better scripts than this.

The current flowering of cinema in the Far East is not confined to Communist China. Three years ago a new director from Taiwan, Hou Xiaoxian, appeared with one of the best films about children's discovery of the world, *Summer of Grandpa's*. Since then he has made something very like a masterpiece in *The Time to Live* and *The Time to Die*, which was first seen at the 1986 Edinburgh and London Festivals. This autobiographical recollection is also a fresco of Taiwanese history over the 40 years of the director's lifetime.

Hou Xiaoxian's family were among the two million refugees from Communist China who arrived in Taiwan (formerly known



Crack news producer who is usually on the verge of cracking up: Holly Hunter on the case in *Broadcast News*

by its Portuguese name of Formosa) in the late 1940s. The family shown in the film is lower middle-class, struggling to make ends meet, on the divide between ancient custom and superstition and the modern influences and education offered by a developing urban society.

The young son, A-ha, is clearly a self-portrait of the filmmaker-to-be, as he moves from childhood high spirits to adolescence on the fringes of delinquency.

The narrative is episodic, time and the seasons pass; people grow up and grow old. Simply related and finely controlled, the film is photographed on location, with the same unpretentious pictorial elegance as *Summer of Grandpa's*.

The family saga is intimate, human, often comic; and yet there is always a sense of an epic background, a deep involvement in the complex and emotive

situation of Taiwan itself. In the minds of Communist and Nationalist Chinese alike, the country remains a province of mainland China; the dream of "going home" retains a compulsive hold on the characters around A-ha.

The land and its problems are far off, perhaps; but Hou Xiaoxian compels our human concern with them.

David Robinson

Opening her heart and voice

RECITAL

Margaret Price
Covent Garden

This was the recital we had been waiting for. When Margaret Price sang at the Wigmore Hall last December, she was certainly not in the right place at the right time. The voice was the instrument we knew and loved; but it remained an instrument, played upon by an over-tense mind and an anxious spirit. Last night saw a transformation on every front. Voice, mind and body were co-ordinated in relaxed yet intense concentration: Price seemed to be enjoying it all as much as her audience.

It was partly a question of scale. The arching proscenium and the larger auditorium seemed to give her room to breathe; and she chose a programme of matching proportions. The evening was, in fact, a succession of expansively paced scenes. First, there was Haydn's *Scena di Roderico*, not only a formidable heroic persona in



Relaxed: Margaret Price seemed to enjoy it as much as the audience

which to sink herself, but also a vocal gymnasium for every muscle of the voice.

Having assured herself and us that they were in pretty fine form, Price turned to Beethoven. "An die Hoffnung", with its verbal and harmonic questioning of the divine presence, celebrated her distinctive dramatic use of the most

lightly moulded legato; and then came Beethoven's setting of two linked poems by Burger. In the course of their long span, built and sustained by Price's relishing of line and language, the theme from the "choral Fantasia" suddenly peaked out, and Price judged its turning point a nicely.

It was an inspired touch, too, to

precede Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* by his two *Lieder der Braut*, little studies in tender, nervous expectation which may have been intended by Schumann as reassurance for his future wife, Clara. The final whispered cry of "Lass Mich" became absorbed into the piano's prelude to the cycle; it became clear what was the other important contributory factor to Price's performance.

In Graham Johnson, Price has found an accompanist who seemed to sense, even anticipate, every movement of her nervous antennae. Throughout the Beethoven, he had tautened and underlined the voice, alternately nudged and nourished its progress. There was a constantly self-renewing, often spontaneous train of reaction between voice and keyboard.

It made "Ich kann's nicht fassen" move at the speed of thought; it turned "Du Ring an meinem Finger" into an overheard soliloquy; and it gave Price the confidence to open both voice and heart in one of her finest performances in recent years.

Hilary Finch

Brief encounter

CONCERT

LPO/Tate
Festival Hall

For a young American soprano yet to make her name here, Candace Goetz's appearance with the London Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday night was tantalizingly brief. She sang *A Mind of Winter*, George Benjamin's short, evocative 1981 setting of a poem by the American Wallace Stevens, of which Miss Goetz recently gave the first New York performance.

I have written here before of its meticulous instrumental colours and carefully shaded dynamics, to which the vocal line is in places but a strand in the texture. However, the soprano was musically alert to the wintry word-painting in a way that suggested that her operatic reputation elsewhere would not be long in extending itself to our experience, too.

Another transatlantic soloist in this programme was Offa Harony, the gifted young Israeli-Canadian cellist. She tackled the Cello Concerto No 1 by Shostakovich with considerable assurance and no lack of resourcefulness in meeting its demands, but for a work in which the element of virtuosity is governed by the extent of its musical logic, it has to be said that her performance lacked the conviction of her courage.

In this respect, Jeffrey Tate's conducting was less than inspiring. Any tendency to exuberance on the soloist's part in the first movement was anchored to pedestrian rhythm and phrasing, though the intentionally prominent solo horn was a welcome feature.

The cellist was at her best in the expressive shading she brought to bear on particular phrases, here and in the linking cadenza between the two later movements, though the finale achieved an effect more dutiful than exhilarating. Neither of these works, with their clarity of texture and relatively limited orchestras, had much relevance, either of context or contrast, to Bruckner's Ninth Symphony as the concert's second part.

In a performance that constantly seemed to anticipate more than it ever achieved, it was strange to note the central scherzo movement almost perfunctorily shedding the sinister qualities usually associated with it, in favour of a positively balletic charm, from stamping dance to delicate lilt.

Otherwise, the performance was of a kind to stress Bruckner's naivety of thought and character rather than disguise it, and although there was resonance and warmth in the orchestral playing, the outer movements seemed to be only tentatively explored.

Noël Goodwin

JAZZ

Gang of Three/
Human Chain
ICA, London

Just when fusion music appeared to have exhausted its limited vocabulary, along comes Gang Of Three, an imaginative young trio led by the saxophonist David O'Higgins.

Opening a concert celebrating the 50th edition of *Wire* music magazine, the band combined high volume riffs with thoughtful arrangements of bebop classics and jazz-funk routines.

A graduate of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, O'Higgins possesses the cool, confident demeanour of a rock star and a tone which inclines towards the patron saint of fusion players, Michael Brecker. Since leaving NYJO he has turned up in a number of different settings, including the jazz-rock quartet *Roadside Picnic* and the relentlessly commercial *Mezzoforte*.

In the *Gang Of Three* he is matched against the agile bassist Lawrence Cottle and the drummer Mike Bradley, who switched comfortably between a solid backbeat and more sophisticated jazz rhythms. On "Diana Lee" and "Freedom Jazz Dance" the group developed an almost telepathic understanding as they swerved through the changes in tempo.

O'Higgins's own compositions, "Raining" and "In An Ideal World" were, understandably, less assured, the latter sounding like a romantic interlude from the latest Hollywood teen film. Happily, there was a return to form in *Tower Of Power's* strutting "Ebony Jam".

Later, Django Bates took to the stage in dressing gown and bobble hat to lead *Human Chain* into fragmentary pieces inspired by Japanese flower-arranging and the like. As with their *Purcell Room* recital last autumn, much of the interest lay in counting the number of instruments on display: Stuart Hall alone managed to play violin, bass, pedal steel guitar, piccolo and guitar.

Since Bates and the drummer Steve Argüelles are both members of *Loose Tubes*, it is hardly surprising that *Human Chain's* music is full of ingratiating humour and cross-cultural references. One day, no doubt, someone will call it post-modern.

Clive Davis

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True but trite

THEATRE

The Little Heroine
Nuffield, Southampton

On the posters for Neil Dunn's new play, her first since the success *Steaming*, the final "e" of the title is set in different type, thrusting the other letters into eye-catching prominence. Drugs is what this play is about: a poor little rich ex-addict's summer-long struggle, to keep herself and her dippy boyfriend off "smack".

We are introduced to young Esther on the day her exquisitely successful father (Michael Culver) brings her back from her cure. They play a duet on the piano he has bought for her, and he draws our attention to the pair of Rennie Mackintosh chairs, climbing like black ladders against the rear window of the prettily arranged set (by Jane Green). But what are wealth and taste, without the wise love that permits the growing child to discover its true self?

As though following guidelines in a playwright's manual, Esther's over-loving father is contrasted with Jonny's contemptuous mother, a ludicrously unlikely character, who comes effing and blinding after her errand, lad — "You never cared about me!" — "I sacrificed my life for you!" — and gratefully played by Georgina Hale, smacking her lips at words like *perch* and *paradise*. You can hear the p's bouncing off the walls.

I did not see *Steaming*, but cannot believe it took so sumptuous a route through the lives of its characters. Esther needs time to find herself, Jonny stays with her, she finds his presence irksome, after leaving, he comes back.

Katharine Schlesinger, entrancingly beautiful, gives urgency to her protests, and Greg Crutwell has his moments as the workaholic Jonny. But the occasionally perceptive lines, or even short scenes, do not dispel the stale air of contrivance that hangs over the whole enterprise. Director: Ian Watt-Smith.

Jeremy Kingston

Love and survival

Winter in the
Morning
Watford Palace Theatre

The Warsaw ghetto, scene of Jacqui Shapiro's new play, based on the autobiography of Janina Bauman, is represented by ripped-up baroque arches supported by titans, bowed not just by the weight of stone. In front of them the designer, Voytek, has positioned two great piles of boots on one side, trunks on the other, unavoidably suggestive of the great pile of corpses which the ghetto was to become.

The air of faded grandeur is appropriate to the Bauman family — middle-class people, hanging on to both possessions and codes of a different time. When the play opens (it is early 1940, just before the establishment of the ghetto), Janina is a naive 14 year old, notably less street-wise than her friends Zula (Susannah Harker), a

glamorous red-head, and Daniel (Laurence Kearey).

Jacqui Shapiro's most cunning and telling device is the use of a cabaret double act (supported by offstage clarinet, accordion and percussion) to provide links between scenes and times and an authentically Jewish comic commentary, which takes self-mockery to the brink of self-annihilation.

This may suggest a comparison with the film *Cabaret*, but life for the Baumans, mother and daughter, is short of any glamour. Robin McCaffrey, while retaining a winning girlishness, is impressive in showing Janina's sudden growing-up.

Sometimes I felt that Jacqui Shapiro's play, inclined towards a rather bald literalism, could have done with more fantasy. But Lou Stein guides the fine cast sensitively and they produce serious, rewarding drama which poses questions about survival and love.

Harry Eyres

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BOOKS

Declining the American Empire

It would be unwise to assume that the relationship between Britain and America will continue indefinitely in its present form. "Close personal friendships alone will not insulate traditional policies against changing international realities." Today America is painfully adapting to the loss of its economic supremacy and, at the same time, establishing a more structured if still adversarial relationship with the Soviet Union. These three hoary clichés occur on page 333 of the Dimbleby-Reynolds exercise in transatlantic banality. *An Ocean Apart*, developed from the BBC TV series of the same name.

The perfect cliché is always an equation with more than a single unknown: conceptual vagaries like "indefinitely", "changing", or "structured" give their authors enough latitude to witness the Second Coming and claim to have prophesied it. If men's opinions and ideas matter at all, such shameless fence-straddling cannot be dismissed as a quaint trait of the international-relations crowd. In 1938, its brightest lights hailed the Munich Pact as "far-reaching and pregnant with hope". It was that all right, as any fool could tell at the time, but not for Czechoslovakia; as for its ultimate effect, it should have taught the world to

Andrei Navrozov scans the transatlantic horizon and finds one book on New York and one on Anglo-American relations. He likes one and dislikes the other

AN OCEAN APART

By David Dimbleby & David Reynolds
BBC/Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95

IMPERIAL CITY

The Rise and Rise of New York
By Geoffrey Moorhouse
Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95

measure the cost of banality in blood and tears. Instead, while becoming increasingly telegraphic, the pundits have grown more and more intellectually irresponsible.

This book about the "special relationship" between the US and Britain is an encyclopaedia of received wisdom, from the Mayflower to the remarkable personal alliance of two leaders who "had restored their countries' pride" and a third, Mikhail Gorbachev, "who was anxious to reduce the defence burden on the inefficient Russian economy". Actually, as of 1982, Russia produced 142 million tons of steel a year (a T-72 tank

weighs in at 36 tons), compared to America's 68 million (including 203 thousand tons for "all ordnance and other military uses"). True, under Mr Gorbachev, titanium rather than steel is beginning to be used in submarine construction, but otherwise one doubts that the "defence burden" is a source of much anxiety to him. As for the Reagan-Thatcher "personal alliance", 12 lines on we find "Reagan and Gorbachev... chatting like old friends around the fireside in Geneva." Where's Mrs Thatcher? Old friendships, it appears, are even more remarkable than personal alliances.

One might mention that "the movies, music, make-up and the monarchy all play their part". The magnificently inventive alliteration (you have, of course, noticed that many of the words here begin with the letter "m") is the blurb-writer's, not the authors', achievement; yet somehow it captures the spirit of the whole effort better than any single example. Still, the urge to quote from the conclusion of Chapter 14, "Living in the American Age", is more than a far less

bewildered reviewer can hope to suppress. Brazen, monstrously glib, and feeble-minded as the authors are as historians, it is their philosophical insights that open new vistas into the ageless realm of imagination-defying, toe-curling twaddle: "For the modern world was becoming 'a global village' in which the winds of change blew from many directions, not just one." In short, as Cicero would have said had he lived to see it on television: O Dimbleby! O Reynolds!

The reference of the famous citizen of Rome is not out of place as we turn to *Imperial City*, a portrait of New York by Geoffrey Moorhouse. After the phantasmagoric tele-glimpse of Uncle Sam chatting up the Russian Bear on Wogan, it seems a relief, a welcome reminder that people still can and do write books. Like all books, it has strengths and weaknesses, yet its very flaws seem modest, civilized, even noble when compared with the vacuous shrillness of Anglo-American platitudinizing.

Mr Moorhouse's greatest strength is his patient, observant prose:

Be different at any cost became the watchword now, and it has produced some truly eye-catching shapes, chiefly to impress inspectors of the horizon, it sometimes seems; for it is, after all, difficult to appreciate a skyscraper from the adjacent sidewalk unless you lie flat on your back.

One gets the distinct feeling that the author has done just that, lain on his back under the Chrysler Building and every other protuberance and incurvity to be found on the island of Manhattan, enjoying everything that, to a native New Yorker, is more often than not just a city and a bit of a nuisance.

This, of course, is the traveller's prerogative, and Mr Moorhouse exercises it combining the enthusiasm of Alexis de Tocqueville with the detachment of Guglielmo Ferrero. Little of what actually stands or moves in New York has escaped his attention, from the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem to

Mortimer Zuckerman, from Louis Auchincloss to Zabar's Delicatessen.

The greatest flaw of this entertaining and factual book is the author's inability or unwillingness to look beneath the surface of people and institutions, fascinating as that surface may be for a foreign observer and his intended audience. New York's intellectual and cultural insularity, for instance — camouflaged as it is by the city's "international" reputation — is a unique condition that invites diagnosis, yet Mr Moorhouse seems to accept the bluff at face value. He is equally reticent about New York's status as a one-newspaper city and the deadly role of *The New York Times*, its one "quality paper" since the collapse of *The New York Tribune* a generation ago, as the national arbiter on all matters cultural and political.

On the eve of the First World War, Guglielmo Ferrero, the now almost forgotten chronicler of the self-destruction of the Roman Republic, was largely optimistic as he drew a parallel between the civilizations in Ancient Rome and Modern America. For the most part, so is Mr Moorhouse, charmed by the "slightly rotten apple" of today. One can only hope that, in the long run at least, history proves these visitors right.

Captain Morpheic

David Jones

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST

By Rupert Sheldrake
Collins, £15

The best scientific practice is no longer magical. The modern chemist does not feel the need to mutter any particular incantation over his reaction-vessels; the modern cancer seldom christens his structures in blood to appease the local demons; even those who read and write the astrological sections of our popular press do not seriously believe in a magical connection between the movements of the planet and human affairs.

Rupert Sheldrake, however, wants to put the clock back. His book, *The Presence of the Past* (his second publication on the topic), suggests that the world is, after all, governed by sympathetic magic. He doesn't call it that, of course; he gives it a proper pseudo-scientific name "the morphogenetic field". He posits uncounted millions of such fields, superimposed throughout all space and enduring through time, each one with the job of keeping its own bit of nature in line. There's a special foxglove field, for example, evolved over the ages by the accumulated forms of all past foxgloves, whose "morphic resonance" causes each new foxglove to resemble its ancestors. There's another for sugar crystals, which makes sure that new sugar crystallizes in the same patterns that sugar has traditionally adopted. And there's one for every aspect of human and animal behaviour, making it easier for every species to do the things which that species has done in the past. The overall notion is that the regularities of nature are not manifestations of stable laws;

they are merely "habits", slowly evolving and stabilizing over time as past experience builds up in millions of morphogenetic fields.

As a scientific theory this is outrageously uneconomic. The established mechanisms of genetics already provide a perfect believable account of why a foxglove should resemble its progenitors. Molecular physics already has a very clear picture of crystal formation. The whole super-colossal undetectable magical apparatus of morphogenetic machinery has practically nothing to do. To be taken seriously, a theory should not make more arbitrary assumptions than it has facts to explain. Furthermore, it should make specific predictions.

To his credit, Sheldrake rises to this challenge. He does suggest a variety of experiments, most intriguingly in the field of human learning. Thus he reckons that it should be easier for an Englishman to learn a Persian nursery rhyme than a set of Persian nonsense-syllables, both being equally unintelligible to him, because of the morphogenetic field established by the generations of Persian-speakers to whom the rhyme has been familiar. Such an effect, essentially a form of collective time-span-

ning telepathy, does not actually contradict any known physical principle, since the activities of conscious minds (unlike those of sugar crystals) are still outside the region in which the writ of physics runs. So far the results of such tests display the usual ambiguous and arguable and possibly positive results so infuriatingly characteristic of paranormal investigations.

But even a positive result to such a test would not save morphogenetic theory from being nonsense. It is so vast and formless that it could easily be made to explain anything, or to dodge round any opposing argument — though I would like to know, for example, why the massive morphogenetic influence of the past has not by now made all foxgloves totally identical. Sheldrake has sadly aligned himself with those fantasists who, from the depths of their armchairs, dream up whole new grandiose theories of space and time to revolutionize all science, drape their woolly generalizations over every phenomenon they can think of, and then start looking round for whatever scraps of evidence that seem to them to be in their favour. With his scientific background, he ought to know that this is the wrong order of precedence. Let him obtain some real, unarguable, reproducible experimental results: and we will then see what is the minimum modification of existing theory required to accommodate them. Meanwhile, the whole unwieldy and redundant structure of his theory falls to Occam's Razor.

All about Bartok

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

CHILDREN'S BRITANNICA

Fourth Edition

20 vols

Edited by James Somerville

Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., £249

Time was when a children's encyclopaedia meant Arthur Mee — those fat, red volumes, jumbling up in their enticing, old-fashioned way so much diverse entertainment. Reading about steam engines you never knew if the next page would lead you to an episode from *Alice* or instructions on how to make a model village out of cardboard.

We manage things differently now. The thinner, but more plentiful, red volumes of *Children's Britannica* bring the world to alphabetic heel: Aardvark, Abacus, Abalone... and because the world is not entirely susceptible to such dragooning, everything is re-analysed in a hefty Reference Index which gives, as bonus, many additional brisk descriptions. The nearest you can get to Mee-like fun is to trace trails for yourself through the cross-references (Canterbury — Chaucer — English Language — Dialect, etc.).

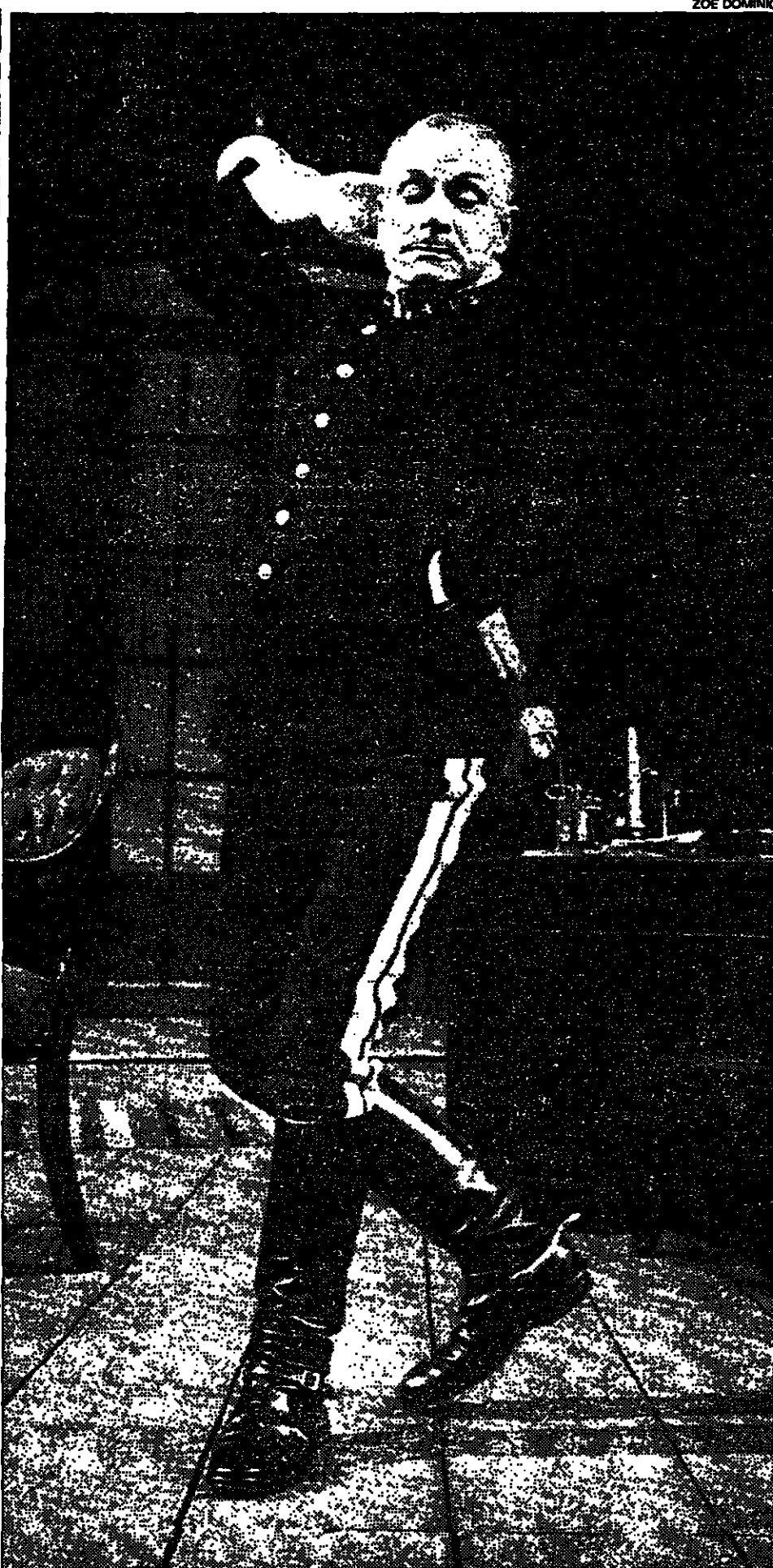
But is it worth it? Is an imposing enterprise like this needed to bridge the gap between simple, unambitious children's encyclopaedias, like those put out by Macmillan's, and its own massive parent —

on whose "Micropaedia" many of the present articles seem to be based? If your child is up to reading the four columns on PROBABILITY, or if he has conceived a passion for BARTOK, will he

not be on the brink of seeking out more substantial treatments than he gets here?

As it happens, those two articles summarize quite well the strengths and weaknesses of the *Encyclopaedia*, which (fourth edition or not) is faced with the impossible task of presenting a world of complex relationships to readers of uncertain maturity. PROBABILITY exemplifies how well the scientific and factual articles provide systematic explanations that lead step-by-step from the obvious to the more obscure, although once an historical dimension is brought in there is confusion over what needs to be said and how to incorporate it. BARTOK shows that such a wobbly approach to the humane arts is not an isolated weakness. Time and again the editors fail in their treatment of non-specific matters involving feeling and inspiration. The real Bartok is hidden behind trite summaries of life and works (which include the erroneous information that he only wrote one violin concerto). Oddly, for a children's encyclopaedia, the articles on children's books and writers are particularly wrong-headed.

For sure the editorial team has worked hard to make *Children's Britannica* a comprehensive and up-to-date work. The spread of subjects is carefully chosen; there are sensible notes already on, say, contemporary word-processors, Zurbriegen's 1987 slalom, AIDS: the mechanics of the indexing are excellent. It is true that the book's American origins remain apparent (big coverage of all those States; American Literature with the same space as English), but the fluctuating levels in the treatment of subjects — and much careless proof-reading (eg Jane Austin; *Fleurs de Mal*) — raise doubts about editorial perceptiveness. And since the thing will surely be called upon by "young students" for their school projects it could usefully have given more directions about the information that is still to be had from real books.



There were giants then: *The Best of Plays and Players 1953-1968*, edited by Peter Roberts, (Methuen, £14.95) covers the years in which British Theatre gave us *Waiting for Godot*, *Look Back in Anger*, and *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* and reviewers such as Caryl Chessman, Frank Marcus and Tom Stoppard. Above: Olivier in Strindberg's *The Dance of Death*.

NEW BOOKS

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Quiller Couch, A Portrait of Q, by A.L. Rowse (Methuen, £14.95) One Cornishman rubs the back of another. Remembrance. What makes it. What breaks it, by Helen Franks (The Bodley Head, £12.95) The triumph of hope over experience. Rubik's Cube Compendium, by Ernő Rubik, Tamas Varga, Gerson Kari, György Marx, and Tamas Vekery (OUP, £14.95) Everything on the cube, nothing on how to pronounce the authors.

The Colonial Image, Australian painting 1800-1880, by Tim Bonyhady (Elisav, £25) Dilemma. The Oxford Dictionary of Art, by Ian Chivers, Harold Osborne, and Dennis Farr (OUP £15) Know your impasto from your scumbling.

Cardus on Music, A centenary collection, edited by Donald Wright (Hamish Hamilton £16.95) Tales from the old Manchester Guardian. *Hider's Gladiator*, by Charles Messenger (Brassey's, £14.95) The life and times of Obergruppenführer and Panzergeneral Oberst der Waffen-SS Joseph (Sapp) Dietrich. Collins Concise Dictionary, New Edition. Chief Editor Patrick Hanks. (£9.95) Aardvark to Zymurgy.

Holland, by Adam Hopkins (Faber, £14.95) Brief history of what Donne called the "Spungie hydroptique Dutch." Strange colour photos. *The Final Frontier*, The rise and fall of the American Rocket State, by Dale Carter (Haymarket, £24.95) Weird history of the space race, beginning with Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* and ending with Dr Strangelove's "I mean Filmer, I can well!" Shakespearean Negotiations. The circulation of Social Energy in Renaissance England, by Stephen Greenblatt (OUP, £22.50) Exorcism, cross-dressing, colonial propaganda and martial law codes in the Bard. *The Unresolvable Plot*, Reading Contemporary Fiction, by Elizabeth Dipple (Routledge, £25) "Elizabeth Dipple is anxious to read readers' fears about contemporary texts." Perfect for sufferers from Nabokov-anxiety, Beckett-fear, Borges-terror, and general undirected bibliophobia.

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FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

THUS SPAKE BELLAVISTA

By Luciano de Crescenzo
Translated by Avril Bardoni
Picador, £10.95

STEPHEN AND VIOLET

By Susan Barrett
Collins, £10.95

OUT OF MIND

By J. Bernlet
Translated by Adrienne Dixon
Faber, £10.95

FORTY STORIES

By Donald Barthelme
Secker & Warburg, £10.95

We only have Robin Hood, and we know that he is more myth than matter of fact. But in Naples, theft is good where property is movable, robbing the rich is the only way the poor may live, and Maid Marian is certainly a mother, if not a whore. *Thus Spake Bellavista* is a most engaging and amusing book about a city which lives to surrender to its conquerors in order to exploit them. The dialogues of Luciano de Crescenzo's Professor with his assistant deputy porter Salvatore and the unemployed artist Saverio are those of Socrates with Monty Python. Yet from them emerge uproarious explanations of the feckless anarchy of Naples, which has always deluded its many occupiers and enraptured its critics.

The old saying is — see Naples and die. After this book, it will be — See Naples and laugh. The best of humour is subversive: kings may be mocked off their thrones. Any King of Naples became a clown by taking the job, and the city's only revolutionary hero, Masaniello, was the lunatic father of a *commedia dell'arte* in the course of which a few hundred died. If Naples means more to you than ice cream, you must read this book, which does what only the best of comedies may do. It transforms a foreign world into an arena of delight and new consideration.

The road from Corfu to London through Italy is familiar, but *Stephen and Violet* provokes new views of old ways. Susan Barrett sets her situation well and drives it home. The aged Violet suffers from an infected leg in Greece and is abandoned in hospital by her tour. Her uncouth great-nephew Stephen conveys her back to England in his van. Two generations and many assumptions and all the seven deadly virtues divide the old from the young.

Susan Barrett has a direct style. She writes plainly, without nonsense. This appears to be so exactly how it is and was that Stephen and Violet seems no fiction. The events may never have happened, but they are the facts dictated by a true imagination. The novel is a documentary of a journey involving two characters whose credibility is stamped on the pages like a visa on a passport.

Out of Mind is a mental odyssey into disintegration and nothingness. A man in his

70s begins to forget, to deny. He cannot understand what he is doing. His loving wife cannot support the senility of her spouse, but the remembrance of their 50 years together give her a measure of strength and tolerance. It is a remorseless case history that leads to the actual crack-up of the prose. The book ends in random thoughts, small phrases, the series of dots that signify breaks in thought and sense and the signs for infinity. J. Bernlet has won literary prizes in Holland for his understanding of the deteriorating intellect and the aged. *Out of Mind* could not be better written, but is gruelling to read.

The inconsequences of the *Forty Stories* by Donald Barthelme have nothing to do with forgetfulness. He seeks to tease with incongruity, to shock by contradictions, to stimulate by applying a *non sequitur* like a cattle prod. He has read his Sterne, and black squares ornament one story so that anything may be read into them. Mock Victorian etchings illustrate another couple of tales with wondrous captions — my favourite is of a volcanic outburst, tagged with the comment: "We auditioned an explosion."

Barthelme's stories require a special taste. They are surreal, their humour is pitch-blende, their vagaries lead to surprised recognition or amused rage. To my mind, he occupies a special place in the art of the short story where only Borges may dare to tread.

What happens when a secret agent makes up his own rules of play?

TEB ALLBEURY
A WILDERNESS OF MIRRORS

"The most consistently inventive of all our novelists of espionage" *The Guardian*

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THURSDAY APRIL 7 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1386.8 (+3.9)

FT-SE 100

1745.0 (+7.4)

Bargains

33189 (35662)

USM (Datastream)

144.72 (+0.41)

THE POUND

US dollar

1.8780 (-0.0005)

W German mark

3.1297 (-0.0005)

Trade-weighted

78.2 (-0.1)

Profits up
at London
Forfeiting

London Forfeiting, the international trade finance company which joined the USM in February, made profits before tax of £16.5 million in the year to December 31.

This was in line with the expectations stated in the company's prospectus issued in connection with its flotation, and represents an increase of more than 23 per cent on the previous year.

The shares rose 1p yesterday to 155p, which is 5p below the flotation offer price.

Earnings per share were 17p and the company intends to pay a dividend of not less than 6.5p a share for the current year.

Sun Alliance
profits drop

Sun Alliance Insurance Group made pretax profits in 1987 of £171.5 million against £180.4 million. British weather losses totalled a record £199 million against £39 million in 1986, with £128 million caused by the October hurricane. The total dividend was raised by 31.9 per cent to 31p.

Tempos, page 22

M6 profit dip

Pretax profits of M6 Cash and Carry, the USM-quoted wholesaler, fell from £1 million to £754,000 during 1987. A final dividend of 2.74p was declared, making a total of 3.8p (3.55p). However, the current year has started well.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York Dow Jones 2034.98 (+37.47)
Tokyo Nikkei Average 2651.17 (+195.82)
Hong Kong Hang Seng 2558.56 (+12.59)
American Gen 246.9 (+5.2)
Sydney AO 1406.9 (-5.8)
Frankfurt Commerzbank 1391.7 (+13.7)
Bremen General 4771.7 (-33.8)
Paris CAC 286.2 (+0.5)
Zurich SBA Gen 443.1 (+4.5)
London FT-A All-Share 896.84 (+3.48)
FT-500 894.17 (+4.03)
FT Gold Mines 225.0 (+2.1)
FT Fixed Interest 97.48 (+0.37)
FT Govt Secs 90.93 (-0.1)

Recent Issues Closing prices Page 24
Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Assoc Port Ports 527p (+22p)
Woolworth 281p (+11p)
Scott Shop 253p (+11p)
Rugby Group 257p (+11p)
A Wood 158p (+11p)
Claydon 158p (+11p)
Hammerston 612p (+10p)
Hardanger 620p (+10p)
Hedder 512p (+10p)
Caledonian 547p (+10p)
Int Thomson 585p (+20p)
Trinity Int 742p (+15p)
Guthrie 825p (+30p)
General Accident 905p (+10p)
London & Man 280p (+11p)
Sun Alliance 912p (+15p)

FALLS:
Warrant 687p (-10p)
Shield Group 63p (-18p)
Turnhill Scott 685p (-10p)
De La Rue 367p (-11p)
Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 8 1/4%
3-month interbank 8 1/4-8 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 8 1/4-8 1/2%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 6.07-6.08%
30-year bonds 9 3/4-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London New York
£ \$1.8780
£ DM1.297
£ Sfr2.5560
£ FF10.6145
£ Yen234.28
£ Index 78.2
ECU £0.861779 SDR £0.795520

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$450.80 pm \$449.85
close \$448.75-450.25 (\$239.50-240.00)
New York
Comex \$448.70-450.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm \$15.45bbl (\$15.58)
Denotes latest trading price

Stock Market 22 Wall Street 25
Tempos 22 Share Prices 27
City Diary 22 Commodities 28
Company 23 Foreign Exch 28
Currency 23 Money Markets 28
Bus Routes 24 UK Treas 28
Appointments 25 Usk Prices 28
Traded Opts 25

The challenge of investing a £152,000 windfall

By Maria Scott

Mrs Jennifer Chelley, winner of £152,000 in the Portfolio Accumulator competition, said yesterday she had not decided what to do with her windfall. She does not play the stock market and has no preferences about how she might invest her winnings.

There is no shortage of choice. Antique jewellery, fine English watercolours, property in the heart of London and shares in a leading high street bank were just some of the suggestions put forward by investment experts.

Mrs Chelley's priority is her two children, aged six and 11. The eldest is due to start at a private school in September, and covering the school fees was top of her list.

Mr Andrew Curtis, an assis-

Jennifer Chelley has won the Portfolio Accumulator competition. *The Times* asked several City experts to suggest how she might use her winnings

tant director in the private client section of National Westminster Bank's stock-broking offshoot, thinks that after spending some of her winnings on a good holiday, about £30,000 could be put into a lump sum annuity plan to pay school fees.

Mr Curtis says she ought to be able to provide for her children's education at top public schools from the ages of 13 to 18. That leaves roughly £120,000, about half of which, he believes, should go into a high interest deposit account.

"I take the view that the markets could go lower," says Mr Curtis, "so I am adopting a cautious approach."

But £30,000 could be split equally between a selection of gilts and shares in "first class UK companies". He includes Midland Bank in his list of companies to invest in because of Midland's "strong recovery prospects".

Mr William Ansell, an assistant director at Kleinwort Grievson Investment Management, is also recom-



Andrew Curtis: cautious approach to share buying



William Ansell: £20,000 for a rainy-day account



Fred Carr: providing for school fees a priority

mending investment in a plan to pay school fees. About £20,000 could go into the building society straight away "as rainy-day money" and to pay the first year's school fees and further money could be

used to cover fees via a specially constructed insurance plan. For instance, a £10,000 lump sum investment starting in 1989 through a recognized school fees insurance scheme would secure £1,000 of fees a

term for the next 12 terms. Then, he would suggest 20 per cent go into gilts, 30 per cent into British equity-based unit trusts and 15 per cent into overseas unit trusts. The

remainder should go into cash awaiting investment.

A personal equity plan would sit well with the unit trust investments. Mr Ansell believes the tax advantages of PEPs make them attractive enough to be "essential" for the long-term investor.

The unit trusts should be high yielders. In volatile markets these are attractive because of their dividends.

Mr Fred Carr, deputy head of the investment management division of Capel Cure Myers, agrees that provision for school fees will be a priority.

He will not commit himself on how to invest the surplus either, pointing out that some people feel much happier putting their money into paintings or Chinese ceramics than stocks and shares.

Bank acts on
sterling as
reserves soar

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England intervened successfully yesterday to hold down sterling, as figures showing a \$2.2 billion (£1.2 billion) rise in the official reserves last month were released.

The strong increase in the reserves underlined the extent of the upward pressure on sterling last month, before the decision was taken on March 4 to "uncap" sterling by removing the unofficial DM3 ceiling.

The figures suggest that had the Chancellor not been persuaded by the Bank and the Prime Minister to allow sterling to rise, the increase in the reserves last month would have comfortably exceeded the record \$6.7 billion rise of October last year.

Mr John Banham, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry, says today that companies may cancel investment plans if the pound's strength continues.

In an article in *The Times*, he says: "The experience of West Germany and Japan shows that a strong currency can be associated with a strong economy. But we cannot put the cart before the horse. The recovery of British industry is not yet secure."

"To invest, companies need both the incentive and the resources to do so," Mr Banham adds. "This will not be forthcoming unless the stability of the pound against

our major competitors is maintained."

The Bank's action to hold down sterling came as the pound was pushing at the DM3.14 level, amid market hopes that its strength could force a cut in base rates.

Dealers said that the Bank's selling of sterling, while not substantial, was highly visible.

The Bank of England appears to have increased the proportion of the reserves held in currencies other than the dollar. The March revaluation showed a \$2.2 billion rise in the value of non-dollar currencies. This varies with dollar performance. A year ago, after a big dollar fall, the revaluation was \$2 billion.

and had succeeded in temporarily taking the steam out of the pound.

"They clipped the pound's wings" by intervening this morning," one senior London foreign exchange dealer said. "But the pound is still strong."

Dealers said that the Bank's action may have been to discourage further moves into sterling by foreign exchange operators, and appeared to be aimed at preventing the pound from gathering momentum for a push towards DM3.20.

The Bank's action also appeared to be aimed at showing that modest currency intervention will be used in preference to base rate cuts, as

long as there are worries about credit growth and inflation in the economy.

"The pound is quite likely to push up further," Mr Richard Jeffrey, director of economic research at Hoare Govett, the broker, said.

But officials indicated that prolonged, large-scale intervention will not be used to hold sterling below certain fixed points.

The pound closed more than half a pence down at DM3.1310, and slipped marginally to £1.8780. The sterling index edged down by 0.1 points to 78.2.

The reserves stood at \$47.52 billion (£25.22 billion) at the end of last month, compared with \$42.93 billion (£24.21 billion) at the end of February.

Of the increase, \$2.88 billion was due to the annual revaluation of gold and the other components of the reserves. Without the revaluation, the reserves would have stood at \$44.64 billion.

Britain's reserves are sufficient to cover nearly four months' imports. There was no borrowing under the exchange cover scheme last month, because of a change in the scheme announced in December. This removed the 1/2 per cent interest rate advantage of borrowing under the scheme and prevented borrowings of less than \$25 million under the scheme.

How business suffers, page 24

Work clothes supplier dresses for success



Models of growth: John Prior said all areas had contributed to profit growth (Photograph: James Morgan)

Alexandra
leaps 32%
to £5.1m

Alexandra Workwear, the Bristol supplier of working clothes, reported a 32 per cent profit increase for the year to end-January to £5.1 million. This reflected a rise in profitability as the growth in sales to £40.7 million was a more modest 23 per cent.

Mr John Prior, now chief executive but to become chairman at the end of the financial year, reported that Alexandra's return on capital increased from 45 per cent to 48 per cent during the year and gearing fell from 28 per cent to 21 per cent.

A final dividend of 2.1p was declared making an annual total of 3.2p. Earnings per share rose 27 per cent to 10p. The shares remained unchanged yesterday at 157p.

Tempos, page 22

Kleinwort slips to £64.3m

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

A continuing poor performance in securities markets dragged down pretax profits at Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, the merchant banking and securities group, by £14.5 million last year.

The group yesterday announced profits of £64.3 million, compared with £78.8 million, as securities operations turned in a loss for the year following severe settlement and management problems.

Kleinwort would not disclose the extent of the shortfall, although it includes a £7.5 million securities trading loss in the first half. The only profitable period of the year was the last three months despite the market crash.

Mr Jonathan Agnew, head of securities operations, said that the group had not made

substantial losses in the crash and British equities had traded profitably during this period. This was partly because Kleinwort did not make markets in second-line stocks which had fallen most sharply.

Mr Agnew added that Kleinwort's market share of the British equity business had risen. The group also maintained its share of the gilt-edged market at about 5 per cent.

He added that the securities settlement problems experienced by Kleinwort soon after Big Bang had now been resolved at a cost of less than the £10 million put aside for them.

Investment management operations, which had suffered from settlement prob-

lems earlier in the year, were hit by the crash, with funds under management falling by £2 billion to £8 billion and a consequent drop in fee income.

Other areas of the group however, continued to produce strong profits, including corporate finance which ended the year with record profits despite a slow start. Business had been strong shortly before the crash but had tailed off since then. Banking profits had also been good.

Mr David Peake, chairman of Kleinwort Benson, said that despite lower profits the group's strategy of integrating its operations was beginning to work successfully.

An unchanged dividend of 14p was announced.

Comment, page 23

Koppers hedges
over Beazer bid

By Rodney Hobson

Koppers, the US aggregates company that is the target of a takeover bid by Beazer, has admitted that its financial advisers, First Boston and Dillon Reed and Co, are unable to declare the bid inadequate from a financial point of view.

Koppers has also admitted that its board is unable to take a position on the \$60 (£32) a share tender offer that Beazer, the British building materials group, is making through its subsidiary, BNS.

The US company said that at a meeting on Tuesday between Mr Charles Pullin, its chairman, and Mr Brian Beazer, the BNS chairman, neither man was prepared to

discuss much of mutual interest.

The information is contained in filings made by Koppers with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

However, Koppers is not currently in talks on a sale and did not identify any parties.

The bid by BNS, which was formed by Beazer, Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc - with 46.1 per cent - and National Westminster Bank - with 4.9 per cent - values Koppers at \$1.7 billion.

Koppers has been opposing the BNS takeover bid. It said the board considered that alternatives could provide greater value.

London move for
Standard & Poor

By Our Banking Correspondent

Standard & Poor's Corporation, the US credit rating agency, is moving its international operations to London.

Mr Edward Enamer, managing director in charge of international rating operations, is moving to London from New York as part of a move to increase European and other international rating business.

He said that London, as the heart of the international market place, was the logical place from which to expand S&P's business outside the US.

S&P rates 360 banks, industrial and public sector companies outside the US. It expects its international staff

to increase from 47 to 80 by the end of the year.

The company said that there was an increasing demand for rating services in Europe and Japan as financial markets grew more international. This meant that investors in one country needed greater guidance when considering an investment in another with which they were not familiar.

Although credit rating has been common in the US for years, it has only recently grown in popularity in smaller European markets.

S&P opened a representative office in London in 1984, and in Tokyo in 1986. S&P is also opening a rating agency in Sweden.

Anonymous attack on £18m sale of consultancy

'Smear' against Henley Centre

By Lawrence Lever

The Henley Centre, the London-based economic consultancy, yesterday claimed that a "smear campaign" was being waged against it, after the announcement last week that it was being purchased by WPP, the advertising group, for a maximum of £18 million.

An anonymous document attacking the sale has been circulated to the national press. It implies that the Henley Centre, a registered charity until last year, was purchased at a knockdown price by its employees before being sold on at a much higher price to WPP approximately one year later.

Mr David Passey, the Henley Centre finance director, said yesterday: "There is a smear campaign. It is a very unfortunate thing."

"A person or persons are disgruntled. I can't be sure who it is, but somebody has spent a lot of time doing this."

Last April employees of the Henley Centre purchased its assets and the name of the Henley Centre for about £500,000.

The charity was represented in the negotiations for the sale by its council of management, the broad equivalent of a board of directors.

A company called Tudor Street Consultants was used to make the purchase. One of Tudor Street's founding directors was Mr Robert Tyrrell who was also on the council of management. According to Mr Passey he was the only full-time and paid director on the council.

Two other members of the council of management, including Professor Thomas Kempner, the chairman, became non-executive directors and shareholders of Tudor Street after the purchase of the Henley Centre.

Tudor Street changed its name to the Henley Centre and last week WPP announced it was buying the company for an initial £3 million - £2 million cash and £1 million in WPP shares. Further payments are contingent on Henley achieving certain profit targets.

The document critical of the sale

claims: "The private acquisition of the assets of a national charity (for the private gain of some individuals who were in a position of trust towards the charity) is absolutely unprecedented."

Mr Passey points out that the sale of the charity was carefully vetted and authorized by the Charity Commissioners, who even went so far as to insist on the district valuer checking on the price Tudor Street was paying for Henley's lease.

Moreover, he said the negotiations were conducted "very much at arm's length" and the members of the council of management who were also interested in the management buyout played no part on behalf of the charity.

"They were fenced off from representing the charity," he said. "The council was a very independent sort of body."

He said a very full and fair price was paid for the company, particularly in view of the fact that its principal assets were the employees who were buying it.



BUSINESS-LIKE, IT IS.
HARD WORK, IT ISN'T.

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | MON 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | TUE 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | WED 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | THUR 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | THUR 19.25 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | FRI 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | FRI 20.15 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | SAT 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | SAT 19.25 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | SUN 13.50 |
| HEATHROW TO LISBON | SUN 21.40 |

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12P AIR PORTUGAL

TEMPUS

Sun Alliance dispels clouds

Sun Alliance's higher than expected October storm losses of £128 million failed to dampen the shares which bounced 19p higher to 913p. The market has started to lick its lips over the potential profits boost this year, assuming hurricanes do not strike twice and in view of the abnormally mild winter weather in the first quarter.

Sun Alliance, in line with the other insurers, will be putting up household rates, probably by about 11 per cent. An increase was on the cards before the hurricane.

SA has no plans, however, to resume buying catastrophe reinsurance cover. Although it is out of pocket since it ceased buying reinsurance two years ago, with reinsurance rates rising it could be back in pocket in another couple of years.

Weather aside, the underlying trend in Britain was upwards with premium growth in the home division of 15 per cent. The underwriting loss on the motor account was reduced, particularly at the specialist Bradford-Pennine subsidiary. SA, unlike GRE, is not making promises to hold rates.

The US produced a strong turnaround from an underwriting loss of £7.1 million to a profit of £14.3 million, on premiums 18 per cent lower in sterling terms but 4 per cent higher in dollar terms. The overall exchange rate effect on the group was to reduce pretax profits by £22.7 million.

The New Jersey-based Chubb Corporation writes most of SA's American business and has clearly been chasing quality rather than quantity of business. Contrary to most insurers, SA reports

improved market conditions and higher profits in all property classes and marine and aviation accounts.

The stock market crash wiped out the gains of the first nine months of 1987, but no more than that. The solvency margin at the year end was 85 per cent against exactly 85 per cent at the end of 1986.

SA had prudently decided that equities were overpriced and had been channelling its cash flow into gilts and fixed-interest investments from the beginning of the year. It had no qualms about increasing its dividend by a handsome 31.9 per cent to 31p, which is still twice covered.

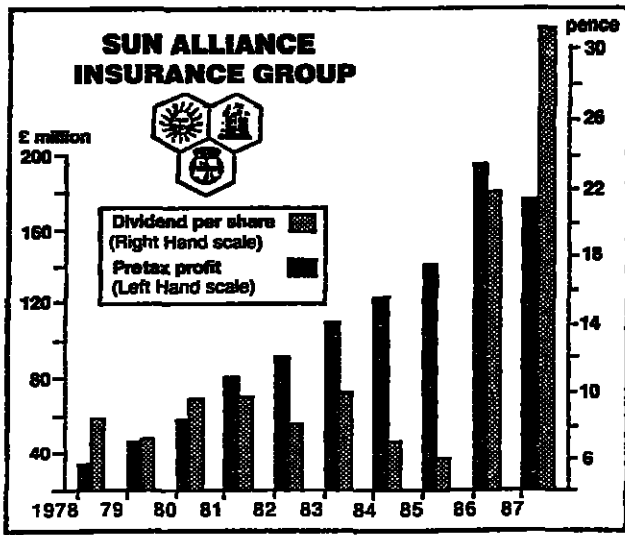
The yield at 4.6 per cent is somewhat less than other composites, but a further dividend increase of around 26 per cent is on the cards this year, taking the prospective yield to 5.7 per cent.

Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, is forecasting doubled profits of £350 million this year, giving a modest prospective p/e ratio of eight. SA's lower than average exposure to the US gives it good defensive qualities at a time of dollar weakness and uncertain American markets.

Alexandra Workwear

Mistaking a fellow customer for a member of staff is embarrassing but this should happen less if Alexandra Workwear continues to make inroads into the corporate uniform market.

The service industries are joining retailers in turning out staff in coordinated outfits while workwear for less



prominent industries are now jazzier and more flexible.

Alexandra Workwear owes its origins to the traditional workwear market, but is fast appreciating the opportunities in what is coyly called career wear. This niche represents about ten per cent of group sales but is a fast-growing area.

It is, apparently, hard to define the market although Alexandra is happy to claim a 25 per cent share of the traditional cake. This is based on the assumption that every day 5 million people put on Alexandra Workwear outfits and that the market consists of 20 million garments. But Alexandra does not supply forces' uniforms, which are included in this figure.

The market appears to be growing but greater opportunities come from the changing mix to higher value items. Moreover, the group is gaining market share by providing customers with an efficient and comprehensive service

from a wide range of 11,000 stock items.

Two million catalogues are sent out each year to a million potential customers. This translates into 140,000 regular account customers.

The group should make over £6 million this year, giving earnings per share of approaching 12p. The management and strategy of the group is good, but the current rating — 13.2 times prospective earnings — is demanding, making the shares no more than a hold.

Blackwood Hodge

Blackwood Hodge, distributor of heavy machinery, was on the very brink of bankruptcy just five years ago. Galvanised by a £20 million loss in 1983 which very nearly brought the company to its knees, the management was restruct-

ured, financial controls tightened, peripheral businesses sold off, and a new strategy developed, a key plank of which was to break into the US market.

Historically, Blackwood Hodge's activities have been concentrated in the countries of the old British Empire, supplying developing countries with the heavy equipment for building dams, roads, and mines. But rising oil prices in the late 1970s put paid to many a grandiose scheme, hence the need for new markets.

Consequently, the group has spent nearly £50 million on acquisitions, four of which are in the US, and it also has ambitions to expand into India and Latin America. But it still maintains its links with its Africa, where it is currently engaged in the supply of £12 million worth of equipment to the Ivory Coast.

As the demand for heavy equipment has waned in favour of smaller machinery, Blackwood Hodge has changed its product profile to suit. It has also taken to the American marketing method of "rental with an option to purchase" with success.

The group should make £15.5 million pretax this year, giving a prospective multiple of about 7.5. The low rating reflects the cyclical nature of the construction business, rather than Blackwood Hodge's strengths, especially its new found flexibility. More seriously for Blackwood Hodge, it hampers its ability to make a much needed UK acquisition — it has unrelievedly advanced corporation tax on its UK dividends — unless it can use its tax losses to reduce dilution.

STOCK MARKET

Even bulls are puzzled as Bond calls for another round of Allied

Hopes of a bid for Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group, were revived yesterday after news that Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, is continuing to take more than a passing interest in the shares.

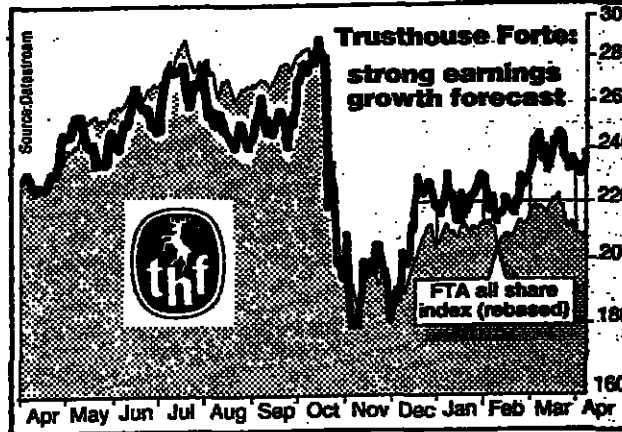
His company, Bond Corporation, which brews Castlemain XXXX, has been busy topping up its holding in Allied to 51.17 million shares, or 7 per cent, worth an estimated £200 million.

At the previous last count, it held 6.3 per cent of the equity. Mr Bond clearly believes that Allied is a good investment with its diversity of interests. But his decision to plough so much money into the venture must be puzzling even the most ardent of bulls. There is no doubt that Allied is awake to the threat of a bid from Mr Bond and has been bolstering its defences.

This year, it bought the outstanding holding in Hiram Walker, the North American distiller. Despite the weakness of the dollar, the shares have made a strong recovery in recent weeks and are continuing to edge towards their peak of 421p achieved before the crash. But the shares ended 1p lower at 380p yesterday.

Meanwhile, the scent of lower interest rates saw the rest of the equity market mark the first day of the new financial year with a strong rally. Strong performances overnight on both New York and Tokyo bolstered sentiment.

Dealers reported a confident start to trading as the



steady trickle of sellers wishing to balance their books ahead of the financial year-end dried up. They were replaced with a few cheap

Savory Mills, the broker, has upgraded its profit estimate for Vibronplast, the plant hire manufacturer, following its US acquisition. It is now looking for pretax profits of £8.5 million for the year to March 1989. It has forecast a final figure of £6.4 million for the year just ended.

buyers. Market-makers took the initiative and nudged prices higher. But turnover remained low and prices boiled over at the close, worried by talk of big rights issue in the pipeline. By the close, fewer than 400 million shares had been traded.

Even the FT-SE 100 index closed below its best levels of the day despite another firm start to trading on Wall Street. It finished 7.4 points up at 1,745.0, having been 21.5 up at its best. The narrower FT index of 30 shares finished a net 3.9 points up at 1,386.8, having been 14.0 ahead at one stage.

Government securities remained dull despite the prospect of an early cut in interest rates with losses stretching to £4.

Kwik Save Discount, the food retailer, ended the day 2p firmer at 344p following renewed whispers that Dairy Farm International, the Hong Kong dairy products group, had been topping up its holding.

Last year, it bought a near 25 per cent stake in Kwik Save after which board representation was obtained by both groups. Dairy Farm can continue adding to its holding until it reaches 30 per cent when a full bid will automatically be triggered. But it has already given assurances that it will not launch a full bid until April next year — unless another bidder appears on the scene, or it obtains permission from the Kwik Save board.

Mr Bill Postlethwaite, the managing director of Kwik Save, said he had no knowledge of Dairy Farm increasing its holding.

Trusthouse Forte, the hotel

and leisure group, held on to an early 7p lead, at 240p, following a meeting with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the securities house, at which it obviously made a favourable impression.

BZW is clearly impressed with the recent acquisition of Kennedy Brooks, the Mario & Franco and Wheelers Restaurant chain, and claims that THF's disciplined style of management will squeeze more out of the group. This could mean that there will be little dilution of earnings.

Meanwhile, THF continues to trade well on all fronts and should produce better-than-average earnings growth during the next few years. To back this, THF boasts a strong balance sheet and enjoys good asset backing, helped by its impressive portfolio of freehold and long lease properties.

BZW has decided to upgrade its profits forecast for 1989 by £10 million to £240 million and calculates that the shares have "good, long-term potential." It is recommending them as a buy to clients.

Rival Kleinwort Greaveson, which recently found its in-

Cadbury Schweppes edged ahead 2p to 252p with the market hoping for some activity in the shares shortly.

A party of analysts is visiting the group's operations in Spain and is due to report back shortly. Bid hopes are being kept alive by General Cinema's sizeable holding.

hot water over comments it made about Savoy Hotel Group, also remains a big fan of THF. It says that the shares continue to head its list of recommendations.

Better late than never for Cable and Wireless, up 9p at 340p, following a recommendation this week from County NatWest, the broker, which remains a big bull of the shares despite their recent dull performance.

County says that Cable and Wireless has been hit by the weakness of the dollar but hopefully its impact will become less as profits continue to flow through from Mercury.

Michael Clark

ALPHA STOCKS

| Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000 |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ADT 1,791 | Costs 935 | Laporte 797 | Royal Ind 1,223 |
| Abbey 2,182 | CU 1,736 | LAG 1,671 | Sasol 1,673 |
| Ad-Lyons 946 | Gons Gold 162 | Lloyds 445 | Saturn 485 |
| Amcor 794 | Cookson 1,841 | Loxley 976 | Scot & N 535 |
| ASDA 944 | Courtauld 2,893 | Lucas 938 | Seas 5,319 |
| AB Foods 73 | Dagely 1,178 | Magnet 1,120 | Seagroup 738 |
| Arya 658 | Dela 1,400 | M&S 1,102 | Shel 1,102 |
| BAA 1,121 | Dorma 1,019 | Maxwell Cn 2,709 | Smith & N 1,777 |
| BET 1,970 | ECC 383 | MEPC 193 | Smith WH 211 |
| BAT 1,616 | Emerson 1,387 | Metal Box 591 | STC 3,728 |
| BAT 2,022 | Ferranti 1,304 | M&C 1,426 | Stan Chart 953 |
| Barclays 1,671 | Fisons 895 | NatWest 776 | Storehouse 730 |
| Bass 807 | Gen Acc 701 | Nest 2,200 | Sun Alliance 712 |
| Beecham 1,192 | Geni 2,400 | Nichol 2,400 | T & N 1,407 |
| Beeper 151 | Glaxo 1,603 | PIO 761 | Tarmac 126 |
| BICC 1,218 | Globe 678 | Pearl 188 | Tate & Lyle 2,388 |
| Blue Arrow 2,491 | Grassdale 1,743 | Person 485 | TSC 2,135 |
| Blue Circle 416 | Grand Met 1,425 | Pittington 2,100 | Tesco 1,098 |
| BOC 1,587 | GLS A 108 | Plessey 2,200 | Thorn EM 1,098 |
| Boots 633 | GRE 33 | Prudential 1,400 | Triglav 1,319 |
| BPP 652 | GKN 418 | Real 3,172 | U & A 1,007 |
| BR Aero 1,274 | Guinness 405 | Rik Hovis 641 | Ultramar 2,122 |
| BR Airways 1,735 | Hamm A 432 | Rank 225 | Unigate 429 |
| BR Conm 594 | Hansen 597 | RAC 136 | Unilever 710 |
| BR Gas 6,580 | Hawker 150 | Radand 598 | Univac Bio 304 |
| BR Patrol 2,488 | Hidewson 1,743 | Reed 789 | Univac News 480 |
| BR Telecom 3,324 | ICI 1,134 | Reid 608 | Univac 698 |
| Brunel 21 | ICI 1,188 | RMC Gp 325 | Vindard 473 |
| Bunzl 1,975 | Inchcape 98 | RTZ 417 | Williams 2,455 |
| Burness 325 | Jaguar 1,243 | Thames 4,151 | Wells Fab 239 |
| Burton 233 | Lazmo 1,252 | Robson B 534 | Wintney G 941 |
| C&W 3,972 | Ladbroke 389 | Rowntree 1,411 | Woodworth 2,245 |
| Cadbury 1,716 | Land Sec 614 | Royal Bank 536 | Equities page 27 |

Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate.

With effect from Thursday 7 April 1988, our Mortgage Rate will be reduced from 10.5% p.a. to 10% p.a. APR 10.5%. This rate will apply to new borrowers from 7 April 1988 and to existing borrowers from 3 May 1988.

*The APR shown is typical of loans for 25 years.



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(ACQUISITIONS MONTHLY JANUARY 1988)



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In a business world that is increasingly competitive and demanding, we believe that our clients are being attracted by our positive approach.

The combination of our creative corporate advice and imaginative underwriting of equity and syndicating of debt has

not only enabled small companies to expand by successfully acquiring companies many times their size, but attracted major corporations to involve us in transactions to the value of over £10 billion last year.

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TIERS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ERF to boost output as UK buys British

ERF, the independent Cheshire heavy truck maker, delivered a record 421 vehicles to British customers in March and aims to push production up from 2,983 vehicles in 1987 to 4,400 trucks a year within 12 months. Mr Peter Foden, the chairman, said: "Production in 1988 will be the highest we have ever achieved as the previous highest was just over 3,000 in the boom year of 1979."

The company is confident of raising its share of the above 16-tonne sector this year to 12.5 per cent compared with 8.1 per cent in 1987. Production was six vehicles a day when ERF launched the E model range two years ago. In 12 months output rose from seven a day to 17. Mr Foden said ERF was winning over customers from foreign trucks.

Eadie caution on profits

Eadie Holdings, the USM-listed wire manufacturer, has warned shareholders that profits in the year to end-December were expected to be lower than the £702,000 in 1986, due mainly to severe competition in the volume wire business. The sale of Eadie Brothers last year contributed to a substantial cash surplus at the year-end. Trading results in 1987 will be announced in two weeks.

New chief for motor society

Mr Simon Foster, the former president of Dunlop France, has been appointed director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. He succeeds Mr Anthony Fraser who has left to join Dietz, Fraser and Partners, the executive search company. Mr Foster, aged 48, spent 25 years with Dunlop, holding management positions in Malaysia, Indonesia and Zambia before taking over in France, and turning losses into profit over the past five years.

BET in £17.8m buy

BET, the industrial services group, is spending up to £17.8 million to buy Lorne Stewart Group, a privately-owned mechanical and electrical contractor. Lorne has branches in London, Stockport, Greater Manchester and Leeds, West Yorkshire, with a staff of more than 500.

It offers a range of specialist contracting services, including the installation and maintenance of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and electrical systems. BET, through its HAT Engineering subsidiary, operates in specialist contracting services and with Lorne will become one of the market leaders. An initial payment of £13.5 million cash will be topped up by a maximum of £4.3 million, depending on profits. The vendor will retain 6,000 BET shares.

Feltrim plans to raise £1m

Feltrim Mining, the mining exploration company headed by Mr Conor Haughey, hopes to raise up to £1 million in a share issue in London and Dublin next week. Mr Haughey, a son of Mr Charles Haughey, the prime minister of the Irish Republic, is managing director of the Dublin company, which plans to search for gold in Connemara, in the west of Ireland, as well as minerals in continental Europe, the US, Australia and Canada.

Erith £4.43m sets record

Erith, the Hertfordshire builders' merchant, has ridden the boom in the building materials market to raise its pretax profits from the previous record of £2.94 million to £4.43 million. Earnings for 1987 are 34 per cent higher at 7.41p per share, and the final dividend has been raised by 0.5p to 2p, making a total of 3p against 2.15p for 1986. Turnover of the group, which has outlets in the Home Counties, increased by 20 per cent to £711.4 million.

TV-am stake for sale

Beaverbrook Investments is to sell 5 per cent of the share capital of TV-am — just over a third of its holding — by an auction, conducted by Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank. The sale will bring the stake below 10 per cent, as demanded by the Independent Broadcasting Authority after it was revealed the Beaverbrook holding was controlled by Saudi Arabian interests. Ansbacher is inviting bids by 5pm on Monday, with a view to signing a provisional sale contract by April 13. TV-am shares slipped 1p to 129p, valuing the shares to be sold at £4.2 million.

RECENT ISSUES

| EQUITIES | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| AMI Healthcare (215p) | 258 | River&Merc Am Inc | 102 |
| Archer (AJ) (130p) | 160 | Selective Ass | 73 +2 |
| Assoc Nursing | 141 | Shafsbury (180p) | 155 |
| Auton Ass (50p) | 100 | Shanks McEwen (650p) | 805 +5 |
| Berry Star | 163 | Shorco | 149 +9 |
| Brit Pet PJP | 69 | TGI (130p) | 128 +1 |
| CWR Gp | 153 | TIP Europe | 140 +2 |
| Gardner (DC) | 99 | Thon Higgs (80p) | 83 +3 |
| Holders Tech (140p) | 143 | Total Systems | 86 |
| Hughes (HT) | 76 | UK Paper (135p) | 137 +1 |
| ISA Int (80p) | 110 | Vesper Thorny (160p) | 168 |
| Inshops (52p) | 70 | | |
| Lon Forlaming (180p) | 155 +1 | | |
| MTL Int New | 80 | | |
| Nestor-BNA (75p) | 80 | | |
| Norfolk House (100p) | 106 | | |
| Penne Opical | 50 | | |
| Poon | 117 | | |
| Resort Hotels (14p) | 17 | | |

SKF

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinedal, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday April 28, 1988.

Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and the Articles of Association.

Notice of Attendance

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB) by Monday April 18 and must notify the Company before noon Monday April 25 of their intention to attend (Aktiebolaget SKF S-415 50 Göteborg. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52), giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding.

Payment of Dividends

The board recommends that shareholders with holdings in the register records on May 3 are entitled to receive dividends for 1987. If this date is accepted by the Annual General Meeting it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notices of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on May 10, 1988.

To facilitate payment of dividends, shareholders who have changed address are recommended to inform Värdepapperscentralen VPC AB, S-171 18 Solna, well before May 3.

Proxy forms are available from: AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52 & 37 10 00

Göteborg, April 1988.

John Banham of the CBI argues that exchange rate stability is vital for UK growth

How the strong pound hits business

The first rule of management is: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." This applies just as well to the management of the economy as to a company.

The relative stability of sterling against the mark until the beginning of March, moving in a narrow range — DM2.95-DM3.00 — for almost a year, was accompanied by low inflation; the highest rate of economic growth since 1973; rapid rises in manufacturing output, up by 5.5 per cent in 1987, and in manufacturing productivity, up by 7 per cent.

In the past month, this policy of sterling stability has been called into question. There is a strong perceived risk of inflation. Interest rates, which are set "so as to maintain downward pressure on inflation" were five percentage points higher than in West Germany and two percentage points more than in the United States.

The resulting strength of the pound is not helping British businesses to sell their products and services in intensely competitive world markets. Sterling has appreciated by 4.5 per cent in as many weeks. If this strength in the pound is sustained, manufacturers face either reduced sales because their competitors' prices are cheaper, or reduced profits if they attempt to hold their own

prices at a competitive level. For an exporter operating on a margin of 15 per cent, this means a reduction in profits by almost one-third.

This is not to say we are complacent about inflation. The Confederation of British Industry has always shared the view of both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor that the defeat of inflation must be paramount in government economic policy.

And we have continued to emphasize to member companies that wage increases must be paid for by improved productivity and performance. But the fear of resurgent inflation must be set in context: the retail price index has been at 3.3 per cent for two months running — its lowest level for well over a year; the Chancellor himself, in his Budget speech, forecast that inflation was unlikely to exceed 4 per cent this year; pay settlements in manufacturing are averaging about 5.5 per cent whereas productivity has increased over the past year by nearly 7 per cent.

True, earnings — after allowing for overtime and bonus payments — have increased by 8.5 per cent, but even this when compared with the productivity, indicates only a small rise in factory gate prices.

Although the latest CBI



Not complacent: John Banham is keen to beat inflation

Industrial Trends Survey shows that both orders and output are continuing at a very high level, fears that the economy might be overheating are unlikely to be realized.

The continued severity of competition in home and export markets is reflected in a weakening of expectations of price increases. Both output and stock levels are keeping up with demand as companies invest to ensure they have sufficient capacity to meet orders.

Keeping the pound stable against a low-inflation currency such as the mark is, in itself, an anti-inflationary

discipline. It makes clear that increases in domestic costs relative to our competitors will not be accommodated by exchange rate depreciation.

This policy also gave business what it needed — sterling stability at a reasonably competitive rate, particularly against other European currencies. The CBI's survey of the impact of monetary policy on business, published last year, showed that companies wanted stable exchange rates even at the expense of more frequent interest rate changes.

This view also underlies the CBI's commitment to membership of the exchange rate

mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The breaching of the DM3 level has created uncertainty about whether this policy would continue. The experience of West Germany and Japan shows that a strong currency can be associated with a strong economy. But we cannot put the cart before the horse. The recovery of British industry is not yet secure.

First, there is a considerable investment gap — in training, research and development and new plant and equipment — between Britain and her leading competitors. The scale of the extra investment needed to match West Germany, for example, is considerable — in the order of £10 a household week.

Indeed, unless British companies are able to close this gap our competitiveness will be impaired, which could bring about exactly the decline in sterling that the Chancellor's anti-inflationary strategy is designed to avoid.

But to invest, companies need both the incentive and the resources to do so. This will not be forthcoming unless the stability of the pound against our leading competitors is maintained.

Secondly, British companies need to develop their export strategy to meet the

challenge of 1992 and the creation of the single European market. Penetrating new markets requires a significant investment of time and resources. Over the past few years British manufacturers have halted — and started to reverse — the decline in their share of world trade.

It will be a pity if the progress British industry has made over the past year to securing a long-term future in Europe is set back by the uncertainty created over the last month.

The answer to the maxim: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," is, of course, that if you do not fix it, it will indeed break!

Interest rates are an effective and sensitive instrument in controlling the level of sterling against other currencies, but they are a relatively blunt and ineffective instrument when it comes to controlling inflation.

The danger of the present approach to exchange rates and interest rates is that the new-found confidence of British industry could crack first — and with it the chance of consolidating our excellent economic performance of the past year.

The author is director general of the Confederation of British Industry

Holmes à Court in TV selloff

From Christopher Morris Sydney

Mr Christopher Skase, a former financial journalist, yesterday purchased television stations in Adelaide and Perth in a deal worth Aus\$126 million (£49.4 million).

Mr Skase, owner of Australia's Channel 7 network, made the purchase from the Bell Group of Mr Robert Holmes à Court who is still trying to rescue his ailing company after the October crash.

Bell's profit on the sale was Aus\$86 million and the company has retained the right to buy back up to 15 per cent of the stations later.

Mr Skase now replaces Mr Alan Bond on the rival Channel 9 network as the owner of Australia's biggest commercial television empire. But his purchase puts him at odds with government regulations barring anyone from holding more than a 60 per cent level of ownership.

Since the Queensland businessman already has Channel 7 television stations in all of Australia's mainland state cities and nine regional stations in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, his potential audience is three-quarters of Australia's population of 16 million.

But he is not concerned that his 73 per cent of the audience is 13 per cent above the government's ceiling.

A sympathetic Communications Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, explained that the Government was forced to impose a 60 per cent limit because of the Opposition majority in the Senate.



Shop floor work: Professor Stephen Humble, director of the joint scheme

DTI boost for training

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A drive to strengthen academic and industrial links is about to start. It is aimed at boosting the number of high-flyers at or near Master of Science and Master of Business Administration standard.

The chosen vehicle is a £13-million-a-year teaching company scheme run by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) and the Department of Trade and Industry. It was launched in 1975 and since 1980 has expanded fourfold. It has about 300 programmes operating between companies and academic bodies such as universities and polytechnics.

About 240 companies and 70 academic bodies are in-

cluded. The companies include the General Electric Company (GEC), Lucas, the electrical and automotive parts group, and Rover, the car maker.

Now the scheme has been drawn into the DTI's enterprise initiative campaign with the aim of boosting it "substantially".

Professor Stephen Humble, has been appointed as director of the scheme. He said: "I would be disappointed if the scheme did not almost double in the next five years."

The scheme will give graduates looking at an industrial career "hands on" experience. Projects chosen will be relevant to a company. The

academic input would benefit the company as graduates work through a programme, typically lasting three years.

The scheme should take graduates to standards similar to those for an MSc degree.

Professor Humble believes that as the scheme gains more influence it will have a greater impact on the way higher education bodies respond to the needs of industry.

He will be seeking sponsorship from other government departments. There have been two public sector recruits, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development.

Employee share schemes given NAPF backing

By Colin Narbrough

The National Association of Pension Funds has given its backing to employee share schemes as a way of fostering long-term ownership of companies, despite the dilution they cause to the pension funds' equity holdings.

In its first reappraisal of the issue of share options for four years, the NAPF seeks to promote longer-term investment and wider share ownership — goals it feels need reinforcing in the wake of the global stock market crash last October.

But it opposes moves to wind up share schemes in response to the market turbulence and is "disappointed" at the use of tax-efficient share schemes to give short-term benefits — a development whose future is unsure after the Budget.

The NAPF, meanwhile, sees profit-related pay, bonuses and other incentives as more appropriate short-term benefits for employees than share schemes with quick exercise rights.

The association upholds its

stand that 10 per cent of a company's ordinary share capital should be the maximum available for share schemes over a 10-year period. In any one year, the upper limit remains 5 per cent.

Mr John Brydon, the NAPF chairman, made clear at the organization's conference last month that the policy review would not produce guidelines, but "general principles" intended to foster best practice among members.

The principles now issued call for a performance-related incentive, based on the price when the option was issued, to be included in company share schemes.

Committees of non-executive directors are proposed as the best way of monitoring schemes, and increased disclosure in company reports of scheme details is also sought.

Companies are encouraged to use the NAPF principles as a yardstick against which other types of share schemes can be judged.

BP standing by to set North Sea lift record

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum is preparing to set a record in the British sector of the North Sea by making the heaviest-ever single lift in the British offshore industry.

Construction teams are standing by to install the topside structure on the Cleeton natural gas field off the Humber, using two heavy-lift barges to position a module weighing 5,300 tonnes in one lift.

The Cleeton field is part of the villages group of gas fields being developed by BP for connection to the British Gas

national grid in the early 1990s.

The other field in the area, the Ravenspurn, is also about to have its production platform topped out.

However, the record could be short-lived. Topside equipment for the Conoco V field is due to be floated out this summer and this will certainly be heavier.

BP is to use the British Gas accommodation platform A-1 during the building of the Cleeton platform.

BASE LENDING RATES

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| ABN | 8.50% |
| Adam & Company | 8.50% |
| BCCI | 8.50% |
| Consolidated Cds | 8.50% |
| Co-operative Bank | 8.50% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 8.50% |
| Hong Kong & Shanghai | 8.50% |
| Lloyds Bank | 8.50% |
| Nat Westminster | 8.50% |
| Royal Bank of Scotland | 8.50% |
| TSB | 8.50% |
| Citibank NA | 8.50% |

Bonded Laminates up

By Our City Staff

Bonded Laminates, producing 1987 figures on a merger accounting basis to take account of acquisitions and adjusting previous figures to an annual basis, shows pretax profits of £956,000 for the year ended December compared with £577,000 a year earlier.

The group went public last May after a placing of shares at 77p each.

The profit increase was achieved after writing off £123,000 start-up costs in the United States and latest fig-

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the 174th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held within the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May 1988 at 2.30 pm for the following purposes:

To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31st December 1987 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.

To elect Directors.

To appoint Auditors.

To fix the remuneration of Directors.

To pass, if thought fit, the following Resolution recommended to the Members by the Directors:

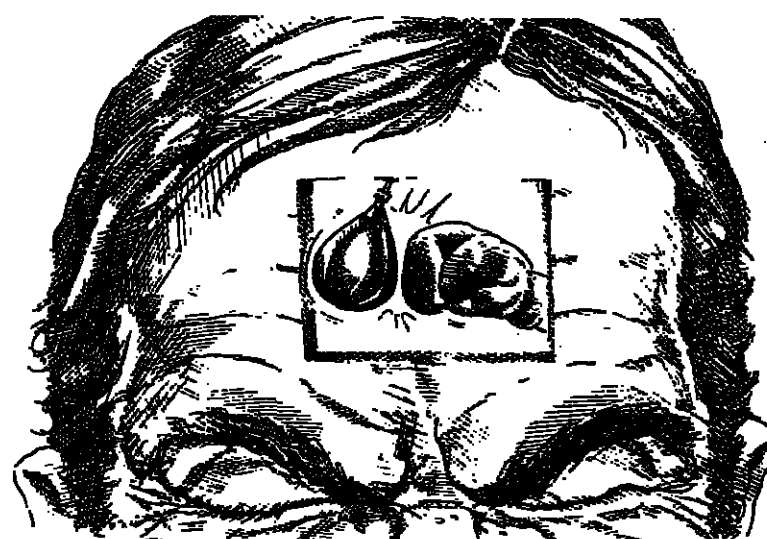
"That the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year be fixed by the Directors of the Society."

To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote thereat, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A Proxy need not be a member of the Society.

C. M. CAVAYE
Managing Director
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU

5 April 1988



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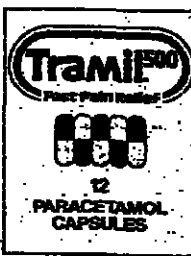
But when you have, you need a strong solution. Take full strength Tramil 500, for instant relief.

Each capsule contains 500mg of paracetamol, an analgesic doctors prescribe. And it's gentle on your stomach.

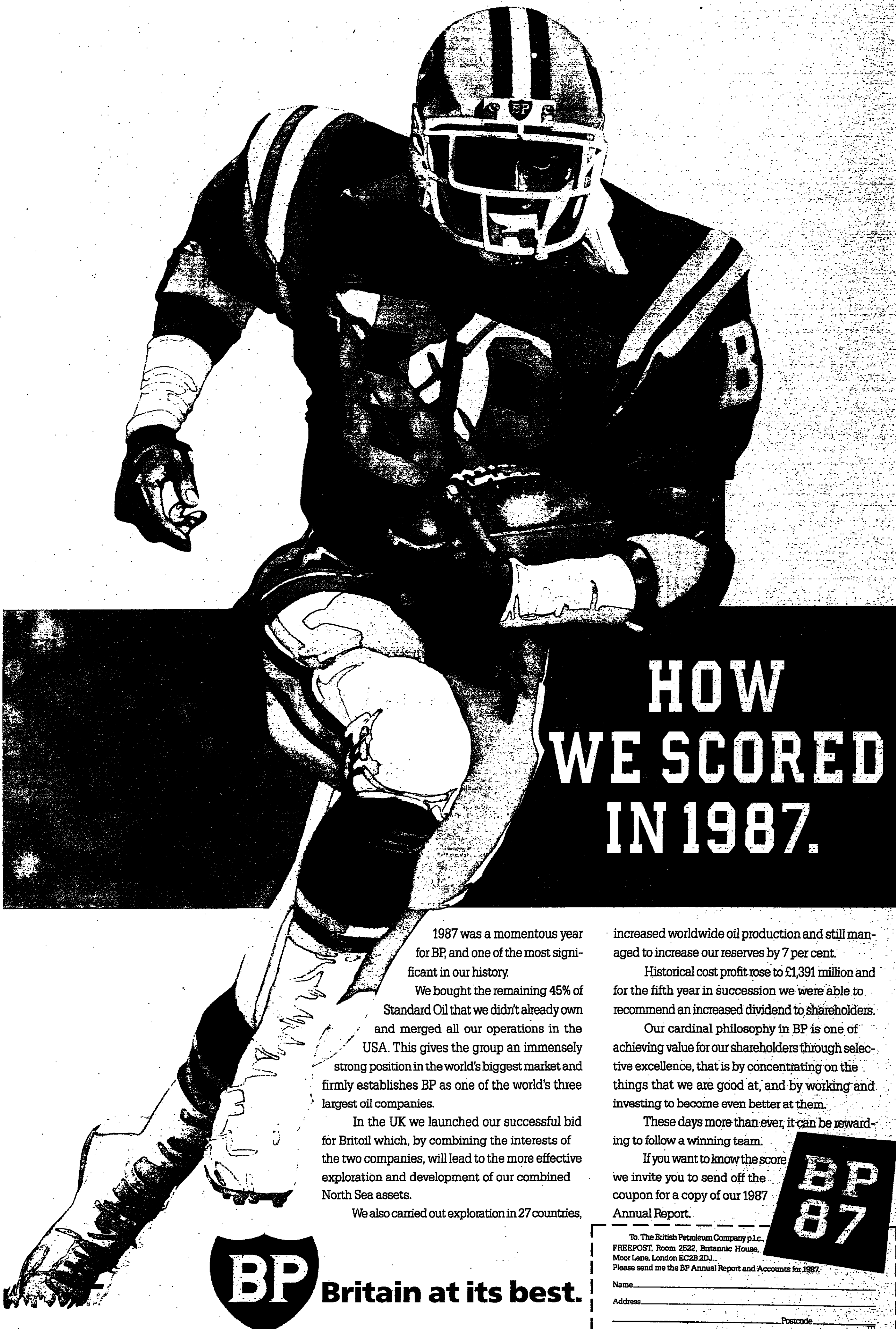
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HOW WE SCORED IN 1987.

1987 was a momentous year for BP, and one of the most significant in our history.

We bought the remaining 45% of Standard Oil that we didn't already own and merged all our operations in the USA. This gives the group an immensely strong position in the world's biggest market and firmly establishes BP as one of the world's three largest oil companies.

In the UK we launched our successful bid for Britoil which, by combining the interests of the two companies, will lead to the more effective exploration and development of our combined North Sea assets.

We also carried out exploration in 27 countries,

increased worldwide oil production and still managed to increase our reserves by 7 per cent.

Historical cost profit rose to £1,391 million and for the fifth year in succession we were able to recommend an increased dividend to shareholders.

Our cardinal philosophy in BP is one of achieving value for our shareholders through selective excellence, that is by concentrating on the things that we are good at, and by working and investing to become even better at them.

These days more than ever, it can be rewarding to follow a winning team.

If you want to know the score we invite you to send off the coupon for a copy of our 1987 Annual Report.

BP 87

To: The British Petroleum Company p.l.c.
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Address _____
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Portfolio
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Accumulation

These funds are open to all investors who are at least 18 years old and who are not subject to any restrictions on the use of their funds. The funds are managed by the British Petroleum Company p.l.c. and are subject to the same risks as any other investment. The funds are not insured by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

| Fund Name | Investment Objective | Minimum Investment | Maximum Investment | Current Value | Current Yield | Current Dividend | Current Dividend Yield |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|
| BP 87 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £1,200 | 10.0% | £120 | 10.0% |
| BP 86 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £1,100 | 9.0% | £110 | 9.0% |
| BP 85 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £1,000 | 8.0% | £100 | 8.0% |
| BP 84 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £900 | 7.0% | £90 | 7.0% |
| BP 83 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £800 | 6.0% | £80 | 6.0% |
| BP 82 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £700 | 5.0% | £70 | 5.0% |
| BP 81 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £600 | 4.0% | £60 | 4.0% |
| BP 80 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £500 | 3.0% | £50 | 3.0% |
| BP 79 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £400 | 2.0% | £40 | 2.0% |
| BP 78 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £300 | 1.0% | £30 | 1.0% |
| BP 77 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £200 | 0.0% | £20 | 0.0% |
| BP 76 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £100 | 0.0% | £10 | 0.0% |
| BP 75 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £50 | 0.0% | £5 | 0.0% |
| BP 74 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £25 | 0.0% | £2 | 0.0% |
| BP 73 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £12 | 0.0% | £1 | 0.0% |
| BP 72 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £6 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 71 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £3 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 70 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £1 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 69 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 68 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 67 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 66 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 65 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 64 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 63 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 62 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 61 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 60 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 59 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 58 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 57 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 56 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 55 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 54 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 53 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 52 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 51 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 50 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 49 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 48 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 47 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 46 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 45 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 44 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 43 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 42 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 41 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 40 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 39 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 38 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 37 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 36 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 35 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 34 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 33 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 32 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 31 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 30 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 29 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 28 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 27 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 26 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 25 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 24 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 23 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 22 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 21 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 20 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 19 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 18 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 17 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 16 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 15 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 14 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 13 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 12 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 11 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 10 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 9 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 8 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 7 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 6 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 5 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 4 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 3 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 2 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |
| BP 1 | Oil and Gas | £100 | £10,000 | £0 | 0.0% | £0 | 0.0% |

Please take into account minus signs

Please make a note of the fund's performance in the last 12 months and the last 5 years.

BRITISH FUNDS

QUARTS Under Five Years

ONE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNITED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Rally continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on March 21. Dealings end tomorrow. \$Contango day April 11. Settlement day April 18.
Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 22).

Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it won't add up, or if the figure you have accumulated is more than the daily or weekly dividend, you have a share of the daily or weekly dividend. Follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card with you when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Share Price |
|-----|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Comstock (aa) | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 2 | Br. Boro | Oil/Gas | 100.00 |
| 3 | Fraser & Neave | Food | 100.00 |
| 4 | Perman | Property | 100.00 |
| 5 | Berkley Op | Building/Roads | 100.00 |
| 6 | Harpur Ceramic | Building/Roads | 100.00 |
| 7 | Chapman | Industrial/EK | 100.00 |
| 8 | Bruton | Property | 100.00 |
| 9 | Jager (aa) | Motor/Aircraft | 100.00 |
| 10 | Baker (Charles) | Motor/Aircraft | 100.00 |
| 11 | Hunterprint | Property | 100.00 |
| 12 | Styl | Shoes/Leather | 100.00 |
| 13 | Lewin (Walter) | Building/Roads | 100.00 |
| 14 | Lambert | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 15 | Underwood | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 16 | Berkeley (aa) | Drugs/Stores | 100.00 |
| 17 | Lucas (aa) | Bank/Discount | 100.00 |
| 18 | Radford (aa) | Motor/Aircraft | 100.00 |
| 19 | Roseburgh | Property | 100.00 |
| 20 | Gilco (aa) | Industrial/EK | 100.00 |
| 21 | Accord | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 22 | Dawson | Newspapers/Pub | 100.00 |
| 23 | Arlington Sec | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 24 | Gr. Portland | Property | 100.00 |
| 25 | Val Bus Comm | Property | 100.00 |
| 26 | Lancaster | Newspapers/Pub | 100.00 |
| 27 | Peterson (aa) | Industrial/LR | 100.00 |
| 28 | Castle Comm | Leisure | 100.00 |
| 29 | By Aerospace (aa) | Motor/Aircraft | 100.00 |
| 30 | Greycoat | Property | 100.00 |
| 31 | Low H & B | Property | 100.00 |
| 32 | Hunter Druce | Property | 100.00 |
| 33 | Tecol | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 34 | Penney | Property | 100.00 |
| 35 | Star Comp | Industrial/S-Z | 100.00 |
| 36 | Triford Park | Property | 100.00 |
| 37 | BAT (aa) | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 38 | Widmore | Textiles | 100.00 |
| 39 | Savory | Drugs/Stores | 100.00 |
| 40 | Independent | Industrial/S-Z | 100.00 |
| 41 | SPP | Newspapers/Pub | 100.00 |
| 42 | Tesco (aa) | Food | 100.00 |
| 43 | Lloyds (aa) | Bank/Discount | 100.00 |
| 44 | Ford Motor | Motor/Aircraft | 100.00 |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper. | | | | | | |
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | TOTAL |
| | | | | | | |

BRITISH FUNDS

| Year | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | % | Div |
|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| 1987 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1986 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1985 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1984 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1983 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1982 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1981 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1980 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1979 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1978 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1977 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1976 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1975 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1974 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1973 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1972 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1971 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1970 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1969 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1968 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1967 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1966 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1965 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1964 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1963 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1962 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1961 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1960 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1959 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1958 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1957 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1956 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1955 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1954 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1953 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1952 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1951 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1950 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

| Year | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | % | Div |
|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| 1987 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1986 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1985 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1984 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1983 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1982 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1981 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1980 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1979 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1978 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1977 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1976 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1975 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1974 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1973 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1972 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1971 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1970 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1969 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1968 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1967 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1966 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1965 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1964 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1963 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1962 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1961 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1960 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1959 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1958 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1957 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1956 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1955 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1954 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1953 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1952 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1951 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1950 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

| Year | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | % | Div |
|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| 1987 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1986 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1985 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1984 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1983 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1982 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1981 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1980 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1979 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1978 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1977 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1976 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1975 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1974 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1973 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1972 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1971 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1970 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1969 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1968 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1967 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1966 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1965 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1964 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1963 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1962 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1961 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1960 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1959 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1958 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1957 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1956 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1955 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1954 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1953 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1952 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1951 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 1950 | 100.00 | 90.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

[illegible][illegible]

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

April 7, 1988

Corner-cutting employers seeking staff are encouraging cowboy recruitment methods, says Peter Underhill

More than 750 companies are engaged in recruitment in the UK. Many of them prosper because some employers inadvertently encourage undisciplined recruitment methods. But companies can run more effective, successful campaigns with an almost 100 per cent guarantee of success, and in so doing discourage the cowboy agencies.

Tell any successful executive that he is just "another product" and he will take umbrage. Yet, to hundreds of small recruitment companies, he is exactly that; to be packaged, sold and invoiced exactly as any other product with a profit margin.

Many employers are unwittingly encouraging and promoting this "supermarket" method of recruitment and, unless they put more emphasis on professional, ethical recruitment, the current laws on employment agencies will need to be tightened, either by the recruitment industry itself, or by the Government.

If a senior executive admitted to his board that he relied on Lady Luck to run his department, he would be called to account. Such executives are expected to possess sufficient experience and skill to achieve their own, and their employers', objectives. Why then do many companies allow executives to trust to luck in that most vital area in any company, its people? In doing so, they are encouraging a disturbing increase in question-

able recruiting methods. Companies are reluctant to call in a human resources consultant, even when their staff requirement has become urgent, seeing it as an unnecessary expense. An increasing practice is to "contact the agencies to see what they have". Such an ill-considered instruction ensures that many totally unsuitable cv's will tumble through the letter-box, requiring a considerable amount of time and resources to sort through.

Even worse, once these agencies learn that company X is willing to employ people from such "scattergun" approaches, unsolicited cv's will continue to arrive and, almost as quickly, continue to be consigned straight to the waste-paper basket. These will be of candidates "on the books" of an agency and looking for a new job, possibly because they have failed in the last one. The agency has to "sell" these candidates to a new employer, often without telling the candidate which companies his details have been sent to.

Statistically, one placement is made from 10 interviews out of every 550 cv's received, so this style of recruitment has become a volume numbers game which is, regrettably, on the increase.

The alternative, considerably more cost-effective, method illustrated below results, on average, in one placement from two interviews, with no useless cv's to sort through. The wasting of valuable executive time is eliminated.

The recruitment of staff cannot

Don't let Lady Luck have a say in who is right for the job

be undertaken as a background task, and certainly should not be left to Lady Luck. It deserves the fullest attention and should be given as much priority as any other part of the company's business. It rarely is.

The shortage of executive time is one of the main reasons for the recent explosive growth of recruitment consultancies, and a good one will shun the "send me what cv's you have" approach, and never sends out unsolicited cv's.

Employers should therefore build a relationship with a good consultancy who can gain a much better picture of a client's needs than is possible as a "visiting fireman". The consultant will understand more closely the business of objectives, market strategies, and future plans. Only then can he begin to consider candidates who fit both the compa-

ny's overall policies and the personalities they will work with.

Such an approach is statistically more likely to result in identifying, placing and keeping the right candidate and can only be achieved by client-oriented, rather than candidate-driven, consultancies.

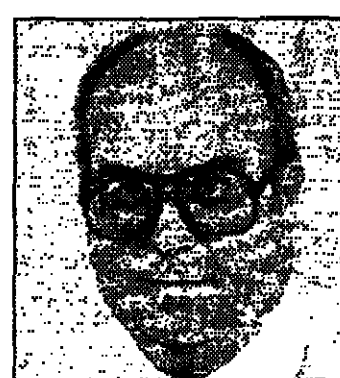
Once a staff requirement has been identified, an early meeting should be held with the consultant to draw up a comprehensive recruitment brief, detailing every aspect of the vacancy. Subsequently, the consultant from his knowledge of his specialist industry, may know a person who fits that brief exactly. If, and only if, this person can be satisfactorily screened against the recruitment brief, an interview can be arranged, and the position filled.

However, it will probably be more appropriate to undertake an advertising campaign, for example

in this General Appointments section of the newspaper.

Advertising is becoming an increasingly popular way of identifying the correct applicants for particular roles, up to and including managing directors. It has even overtaken "head-hunting" in a number of marketplaces.

The initial brief will have been tightly specified and the resulting advert will be written to gain maximum response from a particular profile of applicant. This gives the client and the consultant the greatest choice of well-qualified applicants who have expressed an interest in the particular position. And because all candidate contact will be made within a finite time, the assignment can be more closely controlled. Dates can be booked in good time in the busy executive's diary for interviewing short-listed candidates.



oughly well-briefed applicants. These candidates will invariably be more willing to accept an offer than if they had been "talked into" an interview with a company about whom they knew little, and who had responded to a mailshot cv from an "agency".

Once an assignment has been completed, the professional consultancy should then close the file and continue with the next one. They should not try to "sell" those unsuccessful respondents, gained through a client-financed advertisement, into other companies to boost profits. Otherwise, they too become nothing more than another "body-shop", and should be avoided. After all, would you like someone else's leftovers?

Undoubtedly, the secret of successful recruiting is the same as in any other area of industry, i.e. thorough preparation and groundwork. Using a reputable consultancy and building a close relationship will result in a structured approach to each requirement. Luck will play no part in finding the right person for each particular vacancy and, because the consultant is working on behalf of a client company, there is a more evenly balanced commitment on both sides which ensures a controlled, carefully monitored campaign. This will benefit the client, candidate and consultant.

The author is managing director of Luton-based Spitfire Recruitment, which specialises in senior executives, primarily in the computer-related industries.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 - APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481



U.K. Sales Manager - PC Software

This is an exciting opportunity to join one of the UK's most successful PC software companies. Dealing only with major Corporates, we pride ourselves on the outstanding quality of our customer services and technical support. International expansion and continued rapid UK growth has resulted in the requirement for a UK Sales Manager.

Candidates for this position require:

1. demonstrable sales management success in a rapidly changing and competitive environment.
2. experience of selling to the large corporate marketplace.
3. PC/Computer industry awareness (although candidates with outstanding performance in 1 and 2 will be considered).

International Software together with its US parent Corporate Software occupies an unrivalled position as the supplier of PC Software to large Corporations and as such offers exciting career opportunities to high achieving individuals.

Commensurate with this market leadership the position offers an attractive benefits package designed to attract the highest quality candidates including competitive basic salary, attractive commission structure and fully expensed executive car. Please reply, in confidence to:

The Managing Director, International Software Limited, 941 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9DD, including a detailed cv, current salary and benefits.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

is recruiting
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HEAD OF ITS LONDON INFORMATION OFFICE

in central LONDON (SW1)

He/she, with a staff of 11, will project the Parliament to the British press and media and will provide the public with factual information on all aspects of its activities.

Principal requirements:

- proven track record in public relations or journalism;
- very good knowledge of EEC affairs;
- thorough knowledge of English and at least one other Community language;
- minimum age 40 (date of birth before 3 May 1948).

The remuneration package includes:

- basic monthly salary (currently under review) between £ 3,144 and £ 3,713 (depending on experience) subject to Community income tax;
- generous household, family and relocation allowances;
- worldwide private health and accident insurance cover.

Those interested should write to the European Parliament's Information Office, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA or to the European Parliament's Recruitment Service, L-2929 LUXEMBOURG (please quote reference PE/41a/A) for further details and application forms.

Closing date for applications: 2 May 1988.

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SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

... to join the Research Branch of the Diplomatic Service and to be responsible for conducting research into arms control and disarmament issues.

You should normally have a degree with 1st or Upper 2nd class honours (where divided) or a post-graduate degree in a relevant subject (eg strategic studies, political studies or international relations) and must have an informed interest in strategic (defence, arms control and disarmament) issues and foreign policy in general. A reading knowledge of a modern foreign European language is desirable.

You will be expected to familiarise yourself thoroughly with the

negotiating histories, provisions and compliance records of arms control agreements and to contribute as appropriate to the formulation of future policy.

Salary £13,080-£16,155. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 5 May 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/7526.

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£9,000

We are looking for a competent administrator to work with the Programme Secretary in the running of the Association's busy conference programme. Keyboard skills are essential and the job will involve assisting at functions where necessary. Some experience in this area would be helpful.

Please send CV to

The Secretary General,
The Association of
Corporate Treasurers,
16 Park Crescent,
London, W1N 3PA.

Regional Sales and Marketing Director

London

£20,000 plus benefits

The contract cleaning industry is a high growth industry. The Government's decision to open up the large, local government market in April 1989 to contractors will accelerate this growth.

Our client, a publicly-quoted company with a £22 million turnover, is looking for an executive to take charge of southern regional sales and marketing. It is a key appointment, intended to lead swiftly to senior management status and appropriate financial rewards.

The ideal applicant will be 25-30, a Business Studies graduate with sales and people management experience. Please send full career details, quoting reference, to Jane Douglas, EBL Executive Search, 23 Golden Square, London W1R 3PA.

Export Sales Manager

Blick Communications Ltd., part of the Blick plc Group, is one of the leading manufacturers of radio paging equipment, and its alphanumeric Datalink system has been acknowledged to be at the forefront of paging technology.

The recent expansion of the Sales Department has brought about the need for an Export Sales Manager to administer an international network of Datalink Distributors and several major UK accounts. The post involves system design, costing and quotation, and the management and motivation of stockists/distributors. Extensive travel both overseas and at home will be necessary, and knowledge of European languages will be a distinct advantage.

The successful applicant, aged between 25 and 45 years, will be based at the company's manufacturing unit in Exeter, Devon, and will be entitled to a basic salary of £14,000 per annum, a performance related commission and a 1.6 litre company car.

For further details, please write (including a full C.V.) to:

Andrew Samntson,
Sales Director,
Blick Communications Limited,
Signal House,
7 Bridford Road,
Marsh Barton,
Exeter EX2 8QX

Blick

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We are looking for an experienced, highly motivated, professional sales person to cover Northern Home Counties and London. This is a very exciting environment and the successful applicant will receive realistic first year earnings and an opportunity to earn more, plus car and a full range of benefits.

Apply in writing giving full cv, with age, experience and achievements to:
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To assist Works Manager in North London Co.

Overseas training degree or MBA Production Engineering. Experience in steel vessel production control an advantage.

A role for personal motivation and an ability to take on your full responsibility for career advancement.

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London Salary Neg + Car

Pannell Kerr Forster Associates is an expanding management consultancy company forming part of an International firm of Chartered Accountants with some 33 offices in the UK.

The human resources group forms part of the consultancy company and currently offers personnel and executive recruitment services to clients and other organisations. We are seeking to extend the range of services by appointing:

- A Pensions Consultant
- An Organisation and Employee Benefits Consultant

We seek graduates, with some commercial and consultancy experience, who have the ability to work on their own initiative in developing a market for their specialist skills, who respond to rewards being related to achievements.

Applicants should write in the first instance, in confidence, quoting reference 90549 and submitting CVs with salary details to:

Peter Childs
Pannell Kerr Forster Associates
New Garden House
78 Hutton Garden
London EC1N 8JA

Pannell Kerr Forster Associates
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COMPANY SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

CITY OF LONDON

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A Company Secretarial Assistant is required to support the professional Secretarial team of three, headed by the Group Secretary.

Candidates should have experience of the range of work within a Company Secretarial department, must have meticulous attention to detail and be capable of good presentation of work for the Management and client company representatives.

Ideally candidates will come from a legal, accountancy or chartered secretarial environment. Experience, reliability and proven ability to produce detailed and accurate work are essential.

Applications and C.V. in writing to:

The Group Secretary
English & American Group Ltd.,
Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6DS.

English & American Group Ltd.

01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS REPRESENTATIVE

£15,000 Basic + Commission to give £20,000 in first year, Choice of Quality Car, Free BUPA and non contributory pension + expenses

This company have carved a niche within a highly lucrative and expanding market place by developing a positive forward thinking marketing policy. The service they offer is based upon the latest technical developments within their field.

This company are the second largest of their type in Europe, are wholly UK owned and as a result of 25 years successful trading will be able to provide all the support you require. Your aim will be a directorship within three years, whilst in the interim securing a prestigious position guaranteeing regular high remuneration.

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£13,200 Basic + Quality Car + BUPA

An opportunity to join a large private company with ambitious expansion plans leading to stock market flotation in 1990.

You will be aged 23 - 45 with an electrical/electronic background and a proven track record in sales. After comprehensive product training in both the UK and USA, you will be responsible for a large customer base with room for expansion.

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Austin Benn

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Austin Benn

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The company provide a comprehensive range of consultancy services and facilities to architects, specifiers, contractors and developers.

A knowledge of the construction industry would be an advantage, but it is by no means essential as there is extensive product and sales training, both residentially and on-the-job.

Benefits include a high basic salary, commission and bonus scheme (anticipated earnings £17,000 as there is no ceiling on the bonus), executive vehicle, pension scheme and BUPA.

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General Manager

c. £40,000

Could you improve on a sales success?

Our client, a specialist personnel consultancy involved in data processing, already has a successful sales record. They are now looking for a manager to build upon this success and further expand the sales team.

Aged between 30-40, you will have extensive decision making and problem solving experience, preferably in computing, personnel or similar service industries. You will also possess solid man-management skills and have had experience of building sales teams.

Principle functions of the job will include analysis of the market place and measurement of the sales team's performance.

This is an outstanding opportunity for an ambitious, open minded individual. To accept the challenge write with a full cv. to the Security Manager, White Knight Recruitment at the address below, enclosing separately a list of companies to which your application should not be forwarded.

White Knight Recruitment

White Knight Recruitment, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RP

Director General

Forensic Science Service

Applications are invited for the post of Director General which becomes vacant in April 1988 when the present head of the Service, Miss Margaret Pereira CBE retires. The post is based in Central London.

The Forensic Science Service plays a vital role in the investigation and detection of crime in England and Wales and is universally recognised as the largest and among the most effective of such organisations in the world. It employs some 600 staff, including 480 scientific staff, mainly graduates. They work in 6 regional laboratories as well as a central research and information facility in Berkshire.

The Director General will be responsible for the scientific leadership and management of the service, which has a budget of £12m a year. The appointee will work closely with Chief Officers of Police as well as senior members of the Crown Prosecution Service and other parts of the Criminal Justice System. Candidates must have achieved, through their qualifications and experience, a standing in a scientific field, which would enable them to lead the future scientific development of the Service. They must also have a proven record of managing change, both scientific and organisational, and of motivating large numbers of scientific staff.

The appointment will be for 3 years initially but may be extended on a permanent basis. Salary £31,870-£38,370 (including £1525 Inner London Weighting).

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE.

Further information is available from Mr G J Wasserman, Assistant Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW.

For an application form (to be returned by 29 April 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, telephone Basingstoke (0256) 485551 (answering service operates outside office hours) or telex 868399 CSCOMM G. Please quote ref: S/7539.

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HOME OFFICE



HEAL'S
Retail

Assistant Managers

c.£13,500 (including bonus)

Location London W1

Heal's is expanding to establish an exclusive chain of stores. The Company is a modern forward-looking retailer committed to offering the highest standards in customer service and selling the finest in furniture and home furnishings.

We are looking for professional retailers — with at least 4 years high street retail management experience — to join our flagship store in Tottenham Court Road, with a view to becoming Store Managers within the near future (preferred age 24-30), in addition to good career prospects we can offer the opportunity to use your management skills to the full and contribute significantly to the Company's progression.

Initial responsibilities will include managing a part of the business generating up to £6 million, with particular emphasis on realising sales potential through customer service, staff development, merchandising and administration.

Heal's, part of the Storehouse Group, offers excellent benefits including discount in Group stores, share schemes and Christmas bonus.

If you have the required experience and qualities and would like the challenge of becoming a future Heal's Store Manager, please telephone for an application form or write, with full career and current salary details to Mrs Anne Doer, Personnel Manager, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LD. 01-636 1666 Ext 5030.

A Storehouse PLC Company

Market Forecasting: Property Consultancy

Central London

A major international commercial organisation has established a specialist consultancy and research group providing a distinctive style of service to the property market.

Very rapid expansion requires a new appointment to help in the establishment of an economic forecasts of the property market and to apply the findings to specific portfolio strategies.

Candidates will ideally possess a blend of econometric, computer and

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Salary will be augmented by the benefits associated with a leading international employer.

To apply, please send your detailed cv in full confidence to the consultant advising on this appointment; Ms Fiona Hackett, Gwynn & Brown, 24 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HL, to arrive no later than 13 April 1988.

BERMUDA

We have been retained to recruit a number of computer professionals for prestige clients on the beautiful island of Bermuda. The advantages are obvious - climate, sporting facilities, tax free salaries and overall quality of life - but more importantly these positions can form an excellent base for your future career prospects anywhere in the world. Ideally you will be aged 21-35 and single, although consideration will be given if married with maximum 2 children. You should hold some form of professional qualifications, HND or Degree, and have experience in the Financial Services sector - insurance or banking background a great asset.

PROJECT MANAGERS - Retail Banking - US\$35-42,000 pa.

Senior Analyst/Programmers with at least 5 years experience of COBOL database management, on-line/real-time systems and user liaison. Knowledge of UNISYS - BURROUGHS mainframe and staff training useful.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS - Retail Banking - US\$25-35,000 pa.

You should have an in-depth knowledge of COBOL programming, good analytical and user liaison skills, with 3 years experience of on-line systems and database management.

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Minimum 2 years RPG III experience, and good knowledge of IBM 38. Excellent opportunity to assist in new system set-up, including the training of junior staff.

COBOL PROGRAMMERS - Retail Banking - US\$25-30,000 pa.

2 years sound training in COBOL programming required. Some experience of UNISYS is useful but not essential.

In the first instance please telephone David Hurn of 01-481 8111.

Initial interviews will be held in London between 7th - 21st April.

IPS GROUP

Lloyds Avenue House
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C&C Computers and Communications

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c£9,500

A recent promotion has created this exciting opportunity within our Business Development Department. This is a central function providing marketing intelligence and tailored forecasts for selected technologies.

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If you believe you can meet the challenge of marketing with an international company at the forefront of today's fast-moving communications industry then write to: May Soudah, Personnel Executive, NEC (UK) Ltd., NEC House, 1 Victoria Road, London W3 6UL or telephone for an application form using our 24 hour answerphone on 01-992 0083.

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Take the first steps by contacting Gerry Beeson or Peter Richards on 01 637 7200 (London & Home Counties).

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DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS

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The successful applicant will be required to contribute to the teaching of the Department, with particular emphasis on heat and mass transfer and fluid mechanics. Ideally a materials engineer/scientist is required with an appropriate good honours degree, and research experience in a relevant field to a minimum of PhD level.

Further information concerning this post can be obtained from

Professor D W Pashley FRSc,
Department of Materials,
Imperial College, London SW7 2BP.

to whom applications should be sent to arrive no later than May 9th 1988.

Applications should include a full curriculum vitae, a list of publications and the names of three persons to whom reference may be made.

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Territory - London and the South

Tern-Rent-a-Car is the UK's most dynamic and rapidly expanding Self Drive Rental Organisation.

In line with our vast programme for 1988 we currently require an enthusiastic and career orientated individual to join our team of sales professionals.

If you have a sound operational background in the Rental industry together with a proven record of sales and communication skills, this is the ideal opportunity for you to progress from Branch Level to Area Support.

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Influence the running of the sales department from day one and progress into management. The successful applicant will be

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To be our ideal candidate you will be (20-30+) bright, well presented and good humoured. You should have good communication skills, a desire to build a career in sales or management and relish a new challenge! Some sales experience would be an advantage but is not essential.

Commission is available and you'll earn up to £15,000 in your first year. Interested? Our vacancies are IMMEDIATE.

Please call Jane between 10am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday and Sunday 12pm to 5pm on

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He or she will be responsible to the Trustees both for administration and for advising them on the annual disposition of some £3 million of benefactions, mainly in the fields of education, the arts, and social welfare.

The successful applicant is likely to be a graduate with representative experience at senior levels in the public service, private sector or education. Age is immaterial, but a candidate of 40-45 would receive favourable consideration.

Apply for full job description and other details to Box No.786

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Want to know more? Call now, or write to:

Paul Collis
HOOVER CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED
Unit 7 Griffin Centre,
Staines Road, Feltham,
Middlesex TW7 4 QW
Tel: 01-890 3121

FREELANCE SALES CONSULTANTS

Combined Associates provides a series of Business Packages that aim to assist and improve the small and medium sized Business Community.

We require self motivated Personnel who can operate at a senior level as Sales Representatives/Consultants on a freelance basis throughout the U.K.

Excellent remuneration and full Company support should enable the successful applicants to achieve a higher than average income.

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VACANCIES

Following staff is required by a leading Pakistani Bank for its London and other branches in England and Scotland:

1. Marketing Personnel at London

Candidates should have at least 5 years banking experience out of which 3 should be in Credit and International Financing. Minimum salary £12,500.00 p.a. negotiable.

2. Documentary Credits Personnel at Birmingham, Bradford, Edinburgh, Manchester and Sheffield

Candidates should have at least 5 years banking experience out of which 3 years should be in Documentary Credits. Minimum salary £7,500.00 p.a. negotiable.

3. MBAs for London and other upcountry Branches

Candidates having MBA degree from recognised university and not more than 26 years old required as probationary officers. Minimum salary £10,000.00 p.a. negotiable.

Applications in writing with C.V. to be sent latest by 14th April:

Reply to Box G98

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In the next 12 months Mann & Co Mortgage services will be substantially expanding from a well established base, with a range of highly innovative mortgage products.

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Mr Peter Crofts
Mann & Co Mortgage Services
30 High Street
Bromley, Kent BR1 1EA
Telephone 01-464 8814

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A leading manufacturer of submersible pumps used in the oil industry is currently seeking an Application Engineer for its Viewley office covering Europe, Africa and the Middle East areas.

The position may involve an initial training period overseas and frequent travel to the above mentioned areas.

The successful candidate should possess a degree in Petroleum Engineering or Electrical Engineering. Prior experience would be a plus. Languages would also be an advantage, particularly French, German and/or Arabic. The position responsibilities include application engineering, technical sales, and marketing support of submersible pumps for the oilfield, mine, mining and geothermal industries in addition to constant interface with customers.

This challenging position offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits and a chance to excel in an exciting business environment. Interested individuals should submit a current curriculum vitae along with salary history to:

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We are looking for a top-flight sales person to sell software tools into IBM mainframe accounts in the North of England. A successful sales record essential though not necessarily gained in the computing field. If you have the motivation and ability to meet a new and exciting challenge contact

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The successful applicant should be a self-starter and capable of taking over immediate responsibility for the setting up of this new department as well as directing the Company into the 1990's.

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This is an exciting opportunity, the importance of which is reflected by the excellent remuneration package on offer.

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Mrs Diana J. Utton

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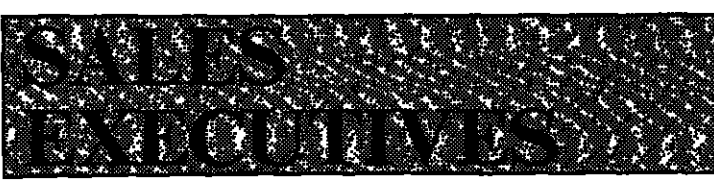
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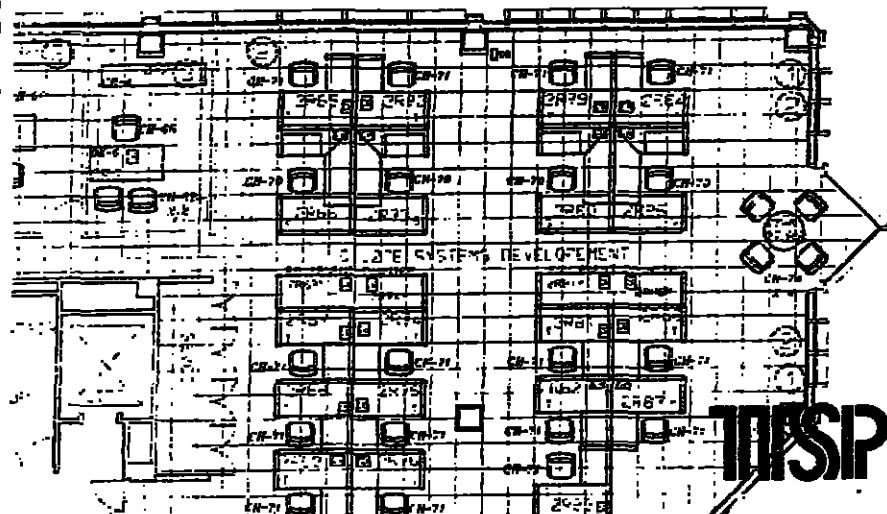
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United Kingdom

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The District Personnel Department,
West Park Hospital,
Epsom, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey,
Telephone Epsom (03727) 27811 Ext 360/362.

Informal enquiries may be made to Mike Theofie,
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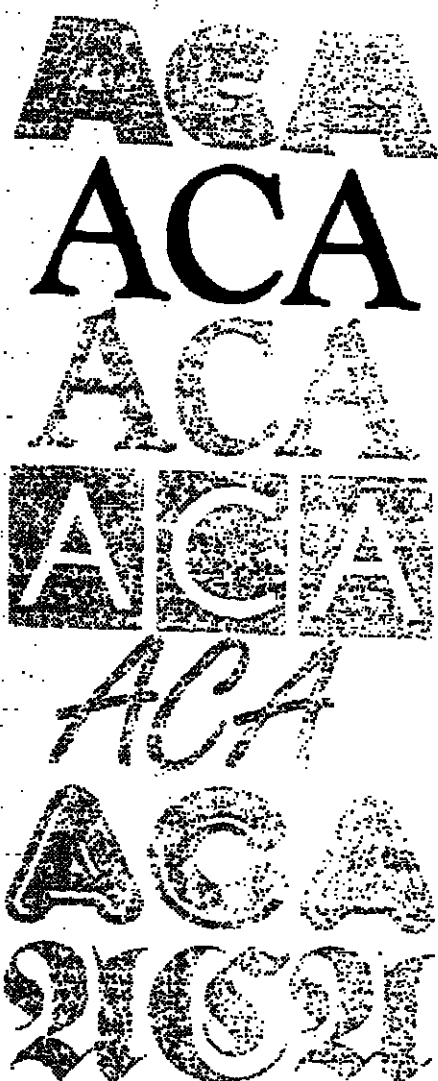
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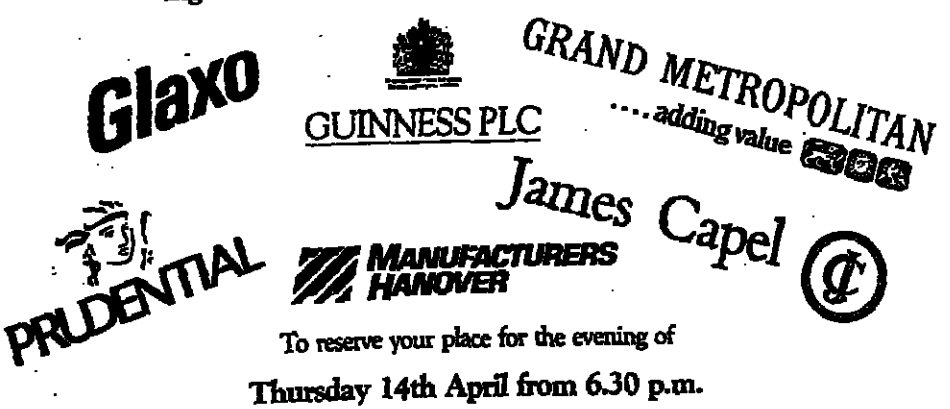
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HORIZONS

A guide to career development

A medievalist's dream comes true as he puts it on the line

Domesday Book gets its maps, 900 years late

I suppose most of us have ideas which we have toyed with but never really brought to fruition. We may dream of singing at Glyndebourne, but instead we confine our musical ambitions to membership of the Chorlton and District Choral Society and performing the occasional solo at one of Uncle Herbert's musical evenings.

The trouble is not so much that we lack the courage to carry our ideas through. Moreover, as the years progress we become stuck in our particular rut and cast aside what plans and ambitions we may once have nurtured.

Every so often, however, I come across someone who has an idea which is determined to get off the ground whatever the cost. It may be rather unusual—something which has not been tried before, which means that there are no guidelines to follow. In cases like this you need more than just a sprinkling of courage and single-mindedness in order to begin.

An interest in antique maps and the early Middle Ages might seem fascinating pursuits for one's spare time, if such is one's inclination. But are they the stuff that businesses are built on? You don't have to be a confirmed sceptic to think not.

Yet John Garnons Williams is the sort of man who can confound the sceptics. Six years ago he conceived the idea of producing a series of county maps using the place names that appear in the Domesday Book. Now he has a flourishing business which employs eight part-timers and he has just branched out into limited edition atlases.

John is not—as you might imagine—a scholar attached to an ancient university. He used to be a helicopter pilot with the RAF and also found time to pursue a number of varied spare time interests at ground level. Both he and his wife are experts on the Norman period and they both visit Bayeux every summer to give lectures to British tourists on William the Conqueror and his era.

As John flew over the British countryside one day he began to think of William I's great enterprise—a survey of the realm he had conquered—which later became known as the Domesday Book. The survey was a remarkable achievement lacking only one modern feature: maps. This is not surprising. Map-making was very much in its infancy after the Norman Conquest, and the first accurate county maps of England did not appear until the latter half of the 16th century.

John is a keen amateur cartographer and he began to toy with the idea of

launching an enterprise of his own—a series of English maps showing the country as it was at the time of the Norman Conquest. The county boundaries had changed very little since Saxon times, before local government reorganization, but the actual place-names had. Yorkshire was known as Euvscire and Berkshire was Berroceshire.

The idea developed into a hobby, and the hobby became an enterprise. John decided to set up his own map publishing business to develop his idea.

To start a business, you need capital. True, he had some savings and a terminal grant to fall back on, but this was not sufficient to keep him afloat.

A former helicopter pilot has brought his map-reading down to earth

and taken it back into history to make good a glaring omission, says

Roger Jones in the last

of our series on

the countryside

until the hoped-for profits poured in. He needed time to do research and design the maps. "It was only possible to do this because I commuted my RAF pension," John explained.

This was a bold step. Not many people are prepared to gamble away their pension on what is plainly a risk venture. But in a sense it was a calculated risk. During his last three years as a helicopter instructor John spent virtually every spare minute beaver away at his Domesday map project—20 to 30 hours a week, according to his estimate.

At the end of this period his research was well under way and he had got a suitable style worked out. He decided, for example, to incorporate motifs from the Bayeux Tapestry (which is contemporaneous with the Domesday Book) in his design and to include only those place-names which have survived as modern villages, towns or streets.

Agreed, such a map might prove inadequate for the purposes of medieval scholarship. But this was a deliberate ploy on John's part. His maps are aimed at the general public, as were

those of the great county mapmakers of the past, such as Christopher Saxton, John Speed and John Cary.

Not that academics have exactly shunned his series. Indeed, complete sets of the Domesday maps have been bought by university libraries throughout the English-speaking world. John's gamble is now starting to pay off.

Having completed the series, he is currently engaged on a series of limited edition Domesday England atlases. The first of these, appropriately enough, was presented to the Conqueror's descendant and namesake, Prince William. John has just handbound and despatched his eleventh atlas, and he plans to produce 89 more.

I wondered how he set about marketing his products. Until now, it appears, he has done very little advertising as such. He has, however, written articles on his work for *Popular Archaeology* and a number of county magazines—all of which have stimulated interest. Recently the Shropshire Employment Promotion Association has given him a helping hand with a portable exhibition stand which he takes to shows up and down the country.

Being still very much a one-man band, he is proceeding cautiously—and he is probably wise to do so. It is, after all, difficult to estimate the market for maps like this. Publishers of up-to-date motor-ing atlases, by contrast, have a much clearer idea of how many people are likely to buy, since they have done it all before.

Clearly, marketing is an area he needs to concentrate on now in order to finance his next venture. This is a series of maps of ancient civilizations and he reckons it will keep him busy for the next decade. He has already begun the exhaustive research that such a project demands, with reconnaissance visits to Turkey, Greece and Israel.

In recognition of his work John was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society two years ago. Now that he has made a name for himself, it is quite possible he could find a publisher who would finance the venture and pay him royalties.

However, I have the impression that John Garnons Williams relishes being his own boss. He has shown courage in setting off on a venture which does not promise instant fame and fortune, and he clearly possesses the resilience to see it through. Such people deserve to succeed.

John Garnons Williams's address is: Hardwicke Stables, Hadnall, Shrewsbury SY44 4SN (093 97 416).

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A famous equine ego is assured of a Royal reception with the unveiling of a life-sized tribute to his legendary feats

Red Rum in the home straight

A quarter past one on Saturday, Royalty is due to meet equine royalty. Or, putting it another way, the undisputed King of Aintree will be present in the paddock area on Grand National Day to see his life-size statue unveiled by the Princess Royal. The King, of course, is Red Rum, now 23, and a veteran in all but looks: winner of the National three times, placed twice — and even in his youngest days on the Flat a dead-heat winner and runner-up on his other two Liverpool appearances.

Nor is the royal smile such an extravagant fancy. Red Rum is still an idol of the crowds wherever he goes. His ceremonial expertise and dignity, whether deployed in opening a supermarket or gracing a garden party, is beyond question or reproach. The Princess Royal, flying in by helicopter, is fitting the occasion into her busy schedule, while Red Rum, stepping from his £28,000 Mercedes horse box, is fitting it into his.

His diary, managed by Peter Rought of Red Rum Limited, is a packed one for this week leading up to the National. Last Saturday he was in Cardiff declaring a betting shop well and truly open. On Tuesday he was in south-east London and spending the night in stables in Wandsworth before another London engagement. Tomorrow he is due before the TV cameras at Pebble Mill, and then on Saturday on to Aintree, the place which, according to his old friend and trainer, Ginger McCain, excites him most of all. Last Autumn, he says, "doing something there for television, we were down near the National start and he really got lit up. He was nearly doing somersaults".

Red Rum, although his racing exploits are now epic pages of Grand National history, has never really retired. Although in the yard he is sometimes called "the old one", and gallops on Southport sands are a thing of the past, he still retains spring in his step and youth in his heart. The interest he shows in his activities illustrates a secret of continuing life which many a retired human might envy.

Last year, however, it was found that he had a contraction of the artery in his off-hind leg, rather like a thrombosis. In consequence, he was put on eight grammes of warfarin a day, crushed into his feed, to help thin the blood. It was also decided to cut his social engagements. "We tried to fade it down, and phase it out, really," McCain says. "But he genuinely seemed to miss them."



National hero: Red Rum, in his 23rd year, was "nearly doing somersaults" on a recent visit to the start at Aintree (Photograph: Denis Stephens)

"Like all the old footballers and athletes, bring them out into the limelight and they brighten up, don't they? The engagements motivated the old beggar, he loves them, he gets that bit more edge to him."

So the diary was reopened: not to its former capacity but enough to keep Red Rum happy. The morning I went to see him in the now-famous Birkdale yard behind the trainer's car showrooms, he certainly presented the picture of a happy horse. After demolishing his mid-morning feed, he was ready to give undivided attention, not unconnected perhaps, with the mints I had brought and on which he dotes; and as the mints relentlessly went down, it was difficult to connect the National glory and the Aintree scenes of the past with the undeniably present: an affectionate and gentle creature in a brown rug with

shavings clinging to it, standing in the same whitewashed box he has now occupied for the past 16 years.

Red Rum, when not on his travels, spends most of his time in that box. Routine begins at 6.30 in the morning. He has the first of his three daily feeds of oats and cubes with bran supplemented by two good nets of hay a day and mashes twice a week. There follows a good dressing-over at about eight o'clock by the travelling head lad, Kenneth Critchley; then he is led out for half an hour. Then back into his box where he keeps a very lively eye on the other horses in the yard.

A break in that pattern came when Philip Blacker, the former National Hunt rider (and another Aintree veteran) who has fashioned Red Rum in bronze, came down to take photographs and measurements and get to know him; and in turn, Red Rum travelled down for a

week to his studio. A break comes also when Red Rum, eager and ears pricked, goes on his social round.

McCain says with great pride: "Do you know, in all the hundreds of appearances he has made, he has never once blotted his copybook. He has only ever kicked someone once, and that was a policeman!"

But he was a marvellous policeman who said "If you're going to be kicked by anybody, it might as well be by Red Rum."

Apart from that, and an aversion to vets, he loves people, and loves being the centre of attention. This was always so, and in the days when he used to go out with the string into the busy street near the stable, ridden by Lesley Rimmer, the stable lad who has looked after him for the past dozen years, McCain describes it as "like the scene in a

western when the gunmen hit town. The street used to empty, all the tatts stopped because Red Rum went sideways, jumping, kicking, plunging. But when he got to Kent Road, second on the left, he would drop his head and be as good as gold. Bloody old fool. He had to put on his aid."

And that, of course, sums up a large part of Red Rum's character, to this day. He retains an outside ego but, unlike that of so many stars, the ego contains a heart of gold. The thousands who come to the National on Saturday will want to see the Princess Royal and Philip Blacker's fine statue. But above all they will want a glimpse of Red Rum. For in that well-loved form, both the Grand National and Seagram, the sponsors, possess their greatest public relations officer. Long may it continue.

Jack Waterman

Powell will not rush the early Aintree fences

By John Dorman

Brendan Powell has every chance of realising one of his greatest racing ambitions when Rhyme 'N' Reason lines up for the Seagram Grand National on Saturday. And the Irishman, aged 27, says he has no intention of rushing the early fences, but is relishing the prospect of riding one of the best horses in the race.

"If the takes to the fences, he's the one they're all going to beat. He'll always find a turn of foot, even after four miles, and he's very well handicapped."

Despite Rhyme 'N' Reason's form this season — four wins and two seconds — until he fell in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, the nine-year-old's jumping at the early fences has always been a point of some concern. Powell, who fell on Gleam at the third fence last year, hopes this will not present any problems at Aintree.

"In three-mile chases they sometimes go a great gallop early on, and this can unsettle him, because he never does anything in a hurry. But you don't need to be in a hurry over the first two miles of the National."

After starting with Pat Hogan in Ireland, Powell moved to Jimmy Ptasas's yard six years ago as head lad and occasional point-to-point rider. This followed nine months with Stan Mellor and a year with David Gando, during which time he earned professional status.

"To be honest, I wasn't all that keen on riding then, probably because I had been riding such terrible horses in point-to-point and amateur races."

Nevertheless, he persisted, and three years ago began his fruitful association with Les McCain, until McCain died after a training year ago. "We got on really well, and it was a shock when he passed away. All the best horses were sold, apart from Panto Prince."

Powell has been free-lancing this season, and recorded his biggest win to date when he and Jamesmead slogged through the bottomless ground at Newbury to win the Tote Gold Trophy two months ago.

"Being two Faddies together, me and the horse, we loved the ground," Powell said, grinning. "It was a lucky spare ride, because Graham Bradley had ridden the horse in the past, but he can't do it now."

Powell, who numbers eating among his hobbies, is one of those fortunate jockeys who can easily make the bottom weight.



Powell: eating is a hobby

Indeed, when John Dorman, who remembers that in his early days he had to pad out Powell's boots with shavings to stop him rattling around in them.

With the retirement of Colin Brown, Powell hopes to have more rides for David Elsworth in the future, although it will be Simon Sherwood who partners Desert Orchid in the Cheltenham Gold Cup today, replacing the champion who ran away with the 1986 King George VI Chase.

"I've done well enough free-lancing this year," Powell said, "but I'd love to ride more horses for Mr. Elsworth next season, although I've not heard any news about that yet."

Another horse from the Elsworth yard which Powell will be riding on Saturday is Sir Blake, who fell at the last hurdle only a length down to Rebel Song in the Sun Alliance Chase. Powell also has the ride on Panto Prince, fifth behind Pearlyman in the Queen Mother Stakes, and the country's top two-mile chaser in the Captain Morgan Chase on Saturday.

"Panto Prince is a class horse," Powell said, "and the Cheltenham race was the first time he has been out of the stable since he was a yearling. He has liked Cheltenham every year and at Liverpool we got a stone and three from Pearlyman."

After that race, Brendan Powell will be concentrating on the big one, on keeping out of trouble and jumping the fences at the early fences.

"Naturally I'd love to win the National," he said, "and this could be my best chance ever. But as long as we get round, that's the main thing. I'd be just as happy riding a winner at Newton Abbot."

More to the East German success story than just facilities

Fine administration the key

From John Goodbody, East Berlin

The need for Britain to make far more efficient use of its financial resources, existing facilities, coaches and medical support, in order to fulfil its sporting potential, is likely to be the main conclusion drawn by Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, and Sebastian Coe, a vice-chairman of the Sports Council, East Germany, after a five-day tour of East Germany which ended yesterday.

They were impressed with the administrative structure and the way in which talent is identified but less excited about the available facilities. Moynihan said: "It is a myth to believe that the East German success rests on very expensive and highly sophisticated facilities. Ours are often in much better shape."

"However, the East Germans have a structure of coaching support and a comprehensive co-ordination right from school to international level. We need gold medal standards in administration off the track to win gold medals on the track," he said. The British approach was often

"diffuse and bureaucratic" compared to the streamlining here. The Minister, who is drawing up a report on British sport said: "At the moment the structure in Britain is not appropriate for serving the sportsmen and women. We are reviewing this and it will be a radical review."

Moynihan stressed that the available money — £700 million at local government level, £38.8 million in direct assistance from central government plus about £160 million in sponsorship — must be "properly directed towards a goal."

He pointed out that for a long jumper in East Germany the most important considerations were coaching and medical support. The last was the quality of the pit itself. The East Germans have a first rate back-up, particularly at school level, in the identification and nurturing of talent.

Coe said: "The school is the centre of sport in East Germany and it is clearly failing to be that in the United Kingdom." Greater emphasis, he added,

must be placed on passing on promising youngsters from schools to clubs. Moynihan added: "What we have to question is whether we are developing the skills of the youngsters. Or are schools jealously protecting the success of their pupils?"

At adult level Coe was particularly impressed with the medical set-up, spending four hours at the centre in Dresden. In every region of East Germany there is a sports doctor, who acts as a focal point for enquiries at any time of day or night. He can put the competitor immediately in touch with the relevant hospital specialist.

If the problem continues with an East German competitor then a council of medical advisers is formed, including the sports doctor, team doctor and two or three other people who have specialist knowledge in that particular ailment. These additional people, who have an interest in the subject, are not paid. Coe said: "There are not massive financial implications in the system. It is largely down to good co-ordination."

FISHING

Restrictions give salmon a chance

By Conrad Voss Bark

A review of salmon fishing in Norway, just published by the Atlantic Salmon Trust, shows that the Norwegians are well ahead of the British in organising conservation measures. From next year there will be a total ban on drift netting and on the use of monofilament in salmon nets, a shortening of the fishing season for certain other commercial nets, as well as a greater restriction on licensing.

By next year something like 20,000 drift nets will become illegal, so that many hundreds of thousands of extra salmon will escape to the rivers for spawning and sport fishing. In Britain, fishery ministers have shrugged off the idea of banning drift netting, saying there is no call for it.

For salmon fishing in Norway there are between 400 to 500 rivers available for game fishing, far ahead of the British in organising conservation measures. From next year there will be a total ban on drift netting and on the use of monofilament in salmon nets, a shortening of the fishing season for certain other commercial nets, as well as a greater restriction on licensing.

There are many different types of salmon, all inhabiting their own special rivers to which they practically always return. Each river population is an isolated one, some rivers are inhabited only by grise, and multi-sea winter fish and in

some rivers salmon weighing more than 20kg (44lbs) are caught each year.

Sport fishing, either from boat or from land, starts on most rivers in June and lasts until the end of August. Information can be obtained at Norwegian tourist offices or the Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers at: PO Box 98, 1364 Hvalstad, Norway.

Acid rain, hydro-electric works and disease have caused great damage to salmon stocks. In some rivers, particularly in southern Norway, some salmon populations have been wiped out by acid rain. A parasite from salmon hatcheries has also caused considerable damage to wild fish. The export of farm salmon is now a huge industry.

HOCKEY

Replacement sponsor in the pipeline

After the recent announcement that McCain's Lager will terminate its sponsorship agreement with the South League at the end of this season, the search for a new sponsor to take the League — the largest in the country, with over 200 clubs — into the 1990s may already have ended (Sydney Franks writes).

David Herring, the League's secretary, said yesterday that the management committee would meet on April 26 to consider a new sponsorship offer. He also explained that the sponsorship agreement with McCain's Lager had run its natural three-year course.

Fine clubs for players' on-field transgressions

From G. T. Middlemiss

Sir, For some years now I have been becoming more and more convinced that football violence and off-field hooliganism is associated with on-field behaviour and violence. This, although diminished in the country through the security measures and good policing which has been imposed on crowds, appears to be spreading across the globe and invading countries where, some years ago, it would have been unthinkable.

I am convinced that a lot of the hooliganism is generated by the unruly element seeing the players get away with "murder" on the field under the cover of high finance, which football undoubtedly is these days.

I feel that if the clubs were to be taken to task for the on-field behaviour after all, the players perform according to instructions and made to pay for the players' transgressions by being fined for every foul, free kick, and more so for penalties, the on-field violence would take a turn for the better. The players themselves would, in turn, be responsible for providing the entertainment and sport for which they are supposed to be looked up to by the crowds.

I do not hold either the

players (who think they are doing themselves and football favours) or the referees (who only wish to get on with the game and do an admirable job under difficult circumstances) responsible, and the money-seekers who run the clubs nowadays. It is they who should be made to pay.

If, for instance, the club was fined £1,000 per free kick and £5,000 per penalty, I feel sure that the game would be dramatically cleaned up overnight and the proceeds could be donated to the policing (which would still be necessary to a degree) of the matches or even a compensation fund for any injuries suffered by innocent bystanders.

I would certainly be interested in the response to a revolutionary suggestion — especially from the clubs. Yours faithfully, G. T. MIDDLEMISS, 151 Lodge Ave, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex, April 1.

Blatant foul play

From Mike Turner

Sir, As a boy I was taught that deliberate foul play at any game is an indication of a player's lack of ability, as well as sportsman-

ship, and that such action brings the sport concerned into disrepute.

There is no doubt in my mind that the individual skills of the players in League football today are far in advance of those of the past. It is a pity that an established first division player of the standing of Gary Mabbutt, of Tottenham Hotspur, has to go to such lengths to check Nigel Clough's progress as your picture, published on March 28, so clearly illustrates.

One asks why is Mabbutt's right hand clutching Clough's left shoulder while his left arm is about to lock itself round Clough's waist? One may also ask if Nottingham Forest were given a free kick for the offence, cannot believe that Mabbutt's actions were accidental.

As a regular spectator over many years, both here and in West Germany, I have noticed that such fouls are on the increase and frequently the culprits escape without censure.

Any sport is the poorer for such behaviour. Yours truly, Mike Turner, 45, Low Greens, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 1LX, March 29.

A fine move by Queensland

From Mrs S. Christ

Sir, Congratulations to the Queensland Cricket Club committee for their swift decision to disperse with Mr. Boddy's services and to remove his influence from their game — despite the resultant loss of his undoubted skills.

The increasingly predominant "win at any price" policy, so obvious in most spectator sports nowadays, seems to have given gifted players and competitors a mandate to behave any way they please, either on or off the job.

Perhaps a few more of these old-fashioned Queensland style

sackings of the hooligan element among the prominent performers — instead of the toothless warnings, minor fines and temporary suspensions — would eventually help clean up the troubles in the terraces and spectator stands.

Hooligan behaviour inevitably attracts hooligans. And there is no better way to teach whether for good or ill, than by your example. Yours sincerely, S. Christ, 4/30, Thurso Close, Tisbury, Reading, March 31.

In the driving seat

From Mr M. Gathorne

Sir, Well done, the Queensland Cricket Association. It is not before time that some body somewhere in the world of sport has taken a lead to remain in the driving seat of their association. Poor leadership, weak management and financial greed have led sports followers all over the world to suffer the most unsavoury and disgraceful scenes in almost every popular type of indoor and outdoor sport.

The last 10 years have revealed a growing tendency towards violence which has

encompassed just about everything from the thumping of a boxing glove to a head-battering episode during a snooker tournament. Cricket, football, rugby and tennis incidents are too numerous and too well known to mention. No sportsman should ever be allowed to undermine the game he represents. The QCA, in dismissing their biggest financial draw, have set an example which other sports' officials would do well to note.

M. Gathorne, Sheffield Woodlands, Newbury, Berkshire, March 30.

Reflection of life

From Mr A. Graham

Sir, Can you tell me why Ian Botham is allowed to perform in his chosen sport at international level while Zola Budd is barred from hers?

One is loud-mouthed, self-publicising and interprets the other is quiet, self-effacing and well-behaved.

If sport is the issue in one case

and politics in the other, then it says very little for either sport or politics. Is there really any justice in this or is it simply a reflection of the age in which we live? I only ask because I would

Yours faithfully, Alastair Graham, Flat 4, 9, Granville Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, March 28.

The Oval appeal

From Mr Keith Jenkins

Sir, Fifty years ago this summer I set out with my father to see Sussex play at Eastbourne. To my surprise we actually arrived at the Oval where I was privileged to see part of Hutton's record Test innings against the Australians. I have a film of myself in front of the scoreboard showing his not out score of 300.

How appropriate it would be if Sir Leonard could be persuaded to give his name to an appeal on behalf of the club and

match in order for everything to be in presentable shape.

The new board of directors have been in control for only approximately two years, and have spent nearly £1 million per month during that time upgrading the facilities in the entire complex. We are continuously striving to improve all aspects of the Wembley complex — this of course takes time.

I am sure Mr Blundell will have no cause for complaint on his new visit to Wembley Stadium. Yours faithfully, David Griffiths, Chief Executive, Wembley Stadium Ltd, March 25.

Against the clock

From the Chief Executive of Wembley Stadium Ltd

Sir, I refer to the correspondence in your letters' column (March 24) from Mr Roy Blundell under the heading "Disgrace of Wembley". It is to my great regret that Mr Blundell saw fit to put his paper in such a vehement manner.

Wembley Stadium has undergone an enormous improvement programme in recent months, during which time we have been working very much against the clock. Work was carried out throughout the night preceding the March 12 England v Brazil schoolboys' soccer

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roads, clear; snow level, 2,000ft. Forecast for today: perhaps some valley fog and local ground frost at first, but any fog quickly clearing to give a dry and bright day with some sunshine and any cloud will

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| Sölden | 50 | 16 |
| Söll | 50 | 16 |
| Zell am See | 40 | 18 |

● Information supplied by the Austrian National Tourist Office.

FA Cup occasion still looking to find its audience

By Dennis Signy and Chris Moore

The weighty task of restoring Wimbledon's walking wounded to fitness, in time for the FA Cup semi-final against Luton Town at White Hart Lane on Saturday, has fallen on the shoulders of Steve Allen, at the age of 21, the youngest physiotherapist in the Football League.

Allen, who played for Colchester United, qualified as a physiotherapist when a knee injury ended his playing career. He took over at Plough Lane this season, fortunately applying for a job at the same time as Derek French moved with Dave Bassett to Watford.

He was kept as busy yesterday issuing bulletins on Fashanu and Cunningham (hamstrings), Gibson (ligament strain) and Cork and Sanchez (leg injuries).



FA CUP

figure in Wimbledon's plans for the biggest game in their history, with 20 goals to his credit this season. As a precaution, in case he is not fit, Bobby Gould, the manager, has added Swindenhurst, the former Crystal Palace, Derby County, West Ham and Sunderland forward, to his squad. Swindenhurst, aged 32, signed as a non-contract player just before the transfer deadline last month, after playing in Cyprus.

Allen's assessment, as he closed his treatment room last night, was that Cunningham, the former England winger, was the biggest doubt, Fashanu and Gibson had 50-50 chances of playing and

Cork and Sanchez were likely to be fit.

Ray Harford, the Luton Town manager, also faces an anxious wait before knowing whether Sealey, his goalkeeper, and McDonough, a midfielder player, will be fit. Sealey was released from hospital yesterday after being detained overnight with concussion, following the draw against Sheffield Wednesday at Kenilworth Road, Harford, who will delay a decision on Sealey until later in the week rates McDonough "doubtful".

Public response to the match remains lukewarm and Chris Belt, the Tottenham Hotspur box office manager, last night reported sales of just over 21,000. "I think 30,000 would be a good crowd at this stage," he added. This would be the lowest crowd for a semi-final in living memory. Brian Clough played down concern over the form of his England midfielder player, Neil Webb, before the semi-final against Liverpool. Webb has recently been struggling to keep on top of his game, although he scored a vital goal in the League win over Liverpool last Saturday.

Clough said: "We wouldn't be so high in the League or looking forward to Saturday's semi-final, if it weren't for his efforts. He's a bit worried in case he misses out on the European championship this summer. But I don't think he needs have any fear about his place in the England squad. His contribution to our side has been as significant as ever, and I am sure that Bobby Robson realises that as much as anyone else."

Forest expect to be at full-strength with Walker returning in defence, after missing his first match of the season at Portsmouth on Monday. The England under-21 international has an ankle injury which is "responding to treatment."

Following the sending-off of United's midfielder player, Colin Gibson, after 58 minutes by the referee, John Key, for a second bookable offence, and despite the fact that the United then fought back to earn a draw, Ferguson was reported to claim that referees become intimidated by the atmosphere at Anfield.

Graham to answer disrepute charge

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute, only three weeks before Arsenal's Littlewoods Cup final against Luton Town at Wembley.

Graham was booked by the referee, Kelvin Morton, near the end of last week's goalless draw at Oxford United, following an incident involving a linesman. There were suggestions of mistaken identity, but the Football Association today decided there was a case to answer and have given Graham 14 days to request a personal hearing.

The outcome should not prevent Graham from leading his side out against Luton, or sitting on the bench at Wembley. But a fine may be imposed on Graham, who was warned as to his future conduct following comments made to a referee two years ago when he was in charge at Millwall.

Les Mackay, the chairman of the Football Association disciplinary committee, has requested letters of explanation from Kenny Dalglish and Alex Ferguson following the public confrontation between the respective managers of Liverpool and Manchester United after their 3-3 draw at Anfield on Easter Monday (Steve Acton writes).

Mackay, the FA Council representative for London, is also seeking a transcript of an interview that Ferguson was giving to Manchester station, Piccadilly Radio, when the dispute between the two Scots broke out.

The FA's action was last night supported by the Football League Executive Staffs Association (FLESA), the union for managers and secretaries.

Following the sending-off of United's midfielder player, Colin Gibson, after 58 minutes by the referee, John Key, for a second bookable offence, and despite the fact that the United then fought back to earn a draw, Ferguson was reported to claim that referees become intimidated by the atmosphere at Anfield.

Lyle seeks Masters history

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Augusta, Georgia

Tony Jacklin, Europe's most successful Ryder Cup captain, is convinced that Sandy Lyle can create another piece of history by becoming the first British winner of the US Masters, which starts on the Augusta National course here today.

Jacklin, who will be commenting here for the BBC, said: "I'm certain Sandy has all the right credentials to win this title, and I'd love to see him take it on Sunday night by 10 shots."

"I don't go along with the belief that he has made it harder for himself by winning the Greensboro Open last Sunday. Sandy will be spurred on by that win, not by the common belief that golfers don't often win two weeks in succession."

"I've never seen Sandy so relaxed, and I know he has the right blinkered approach for Augusta. I think all the Europeans will play well, and Seve Ballesteros is always my favourite, but I especially hope to see Ian Woosnam have a successful week."

"It has not been easy for him going through a change of clubs. It is something which, quite honestly, he might have been wiser not to do. I remember changing to another make of ball in the early 1970s and I still regret it."

Paul Mayo, the Welshman who won the British amateur championship last year, will have illustrious company when he makes his debut at Augusta. Mayo has been paired with Jack Nicklaus, a six-time winner of the event.

Lyle and Woosnam, who grew up together playing county golf for Shropshire, had taken on Greg Norman and Ballesteros in a fourball which was watched by one of the largest practice day crowds in the history of the tournament.

"We lost the money," Lyle said. "But I was happy with my game, Ian was round in 68, and Greg had a 67. The proudest moment of my career came when I won the Open in 1985, and it will always remain so, but I would love for nothing more than on Sunday night to be wearing the winner's green jacket."

Preview, page 38

Britain is forced out of Cup

Peter de Savary's British challenge for the America's Cup was blocked yesterday in the New York State Supreme Court.

The court ruled that the San Diego Yacht Club entry and Michael Fay's New Zealand boat must race against each other since they could not agree on terms to allow other competitors.

The decision eliminated de Savary's challenge. He had asked the court to halt the race unless it was allowed to compete.

The judge said the Deed of Gift, the trust document which established rules for the race 140 years ago, must be interpreted literally if a valid challenger and the champion could not agree on competition terms. This means the Mercury Bay Boating Club of New Zealand, as the first valid challenger, may veto the entry of any other challenger, she said.

The America's Cup is in confusion. New Zealand has built a 123-foot monohull, and San Diego has replied with a smaller but faster multi-hull. The series is due to start in San Diego on September 19, but there are moves to switch it to next year.

Appearance fees to be cut

British athletes face a major shake-up in their financial support as they prepare for the Olympic Games in Seoul this September. The "league table" used for the past two years to determine payments to athletes for appearing at certain domestic meetings is to be scrapped, which means that track athletes who are not in the very top bracket and field events could all be hard hit.

Last year, around £850,000 was paid to British and overseas athletes who appeared at prestige meetings here, the cash being based on their credentials. Some 150 men and women received various sums, from £15,000 to £500. The total could be cut by 50 per cent in 1988 as the British Amateur Athletic Board tries to cut its outgoings.

"A reduction was essential in view of recent revelations about the Board being virtually bankrupt. There is no bottomless pot of gold," Ian Hodge, a BAAB spokesman, said.

"Before the league table system was introduced in 1986, top athletes were able to attract guarantees individually from people staging meetings in Britain, and the less well-known athletes didn't fare so well. Once the criteria for the new system were worked out, this may well happen again," he added.

"The total money available in

these subvention payments will be drastically reduced, only the best will benefit — perhaps as few as 40 athletes."

John Lister, the BAAB treasurer, will now have a major say in where the money goes. Athletes will be told what the Board thinks their appearance at any meeting is worth — if anything — and will have to take it or look elsewhere.

The move is unlikely to affect Britain's main medal hopes for Seoul, but it will hamper the work which could help an outsider fill an unexpected place in a final. And athletes may now find it more profitable to use overseas meetings as part of their preparations for Seoul.

Stanish was reluctant to name any of Canada's top athletes but admitted some of them have to use steroids.

Regulations of both the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Canadian Olympic Association ban the use of high-performance drugs but these agencies must put mechanisms in place to keep pace with the abuse, he said.

Stanish was reluctant to name any of Canada's top athletes but admitted some of them have to use steroids.

"I think we have to look at the traditional Olympic charter and understand that to have a clean Olympics is no longer possible. Anything ostensibly reported to make somebody bigger, faster, stronger — a good number of people will go to these agents

really an epidemic. There is rampant use of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs among young athletes and even among Canada's world-class athletes," Stanish said.

"I think we have to look at the traditional Olympic charter and understand that to have a clean Olympics is no longer possible. Anything ostensibly reported to make somebody bigger, faster, stronger — a good number of people will go to these agents

readily without getting medical information," he said.

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Forward delivery: Fashanu who believes that his duty to Wimbledon's spectators is an appearance at White Hart Lane

Fashanu will be pitching in

By Mick Cleary

The world and his wife were hammering on John Fashanu's door yesterday desperate to know if the Wimbledon forward's hamstring was on the mend.

As the rags to riches story moved towards its possible happy ever after denouement that is this Saturday's FA Cup semi-final with Luton, the last thing the South London club wanted was for their £1 million-rated trump card to limp off just four minutes into Tuesday night's League match with Coventry.

Fashanu's 20 goals this season, including the winner against Watford in the quarter-final, have helped extend the Wimbledon honeymoon from non-League football 11 years ago to the threshold of Wembley.

While his manager, Bobby Gould, fretted and groaned — "I ask all spiritual healers to pray for us" — Fashanu himself unconcerned by the ballyhoo. "It makes for good headlines," he said. "The papers are preaching doom and gloom because it suits them while I will be trotting round the local park. I will leave the medical prognosis to the physiotherapists. I have only missed two games all year through injury. I think my body is on my side."

On the field, he is a no-holds barred type of player. Awkward, angular, disruptive, his presence creates those kinds of fractious situations which angels long ago declared as no go areas.

Off the field, he is as mild-mannered and urbane a character as you could wish to meet. "I believe in good manners and I have the greatest respect for the law in all walks of life. People think it must be when I open the door for them or acknowledge their consideration in traffic. On the field I think I have a great rapport with referees, and what they say most definitely goes."

The reality is a far cry from the rough "Fash the Bash" image, a nickname which was bestowed on him with affectionate intent at Millwall but has since become a somewhat derogatory reference.

He will not disown his style of play — enthusiastic rather than aggressive — which has been the bane of most first division defences.

To have twice been your club's leading goalscorer, there must also be a smattering of subtlety and technique, and he hopes one day for an England cap.

"That would be a marvellous accolade to prove you are best in your particular activity. I would also like one day to play for the biggest club in the world, be it Liverpool, Ajax or Barcelona, because success is so important to me."

Ambition does not just drive him on the football field. He has a sharp business sense which is bent on developing his company, Fash Enterprises. He is about to front a late-night television show, is lined up for a series of commercials and has just bought a hotel in Norwich which

overlooks Carrow Road, a neat irony as the club once had little faith in his future.

"I am a workaholic. I am up to two or three every night doing deals or thinking up new ideas and then back at it by 7.30 the next morning. People think it must have an adverse effect on my performance but if anything it is the opposite. Were I told to concentrate solely on football, I would not be the same player."

For all his yearning for a hefty bank balance, he will not forsake basic principles and a commendation from the United Nations' Committee against Apartheid takes pride of place on his office wall given in recognition of his turning down £350,000 to play in South Africa.

He has nonetheless reaped the reward of his industry both on and off the field. "Not bad for a kid from Dr Barnardo's," he said with a grin. "Nobody should get the wrong idea though. Because first and foremost I am a footballer and of course beating Luton on Saturday and going on for a winners medal at Wembley is enormously important to me. The club is also very dear to my heart."

"You know we are the only first division club with an open players and spectators bar. You never forget the duty you owe the ordinary spectator."

That bar could be a heady, heaving place over the next few weeks if Fashanu manages to get off the physiotherapist couch and help his side to Wembley.

END COLUMN

County game in good hands

By Ivo Tennant

In the time warp of the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, it is not easy to picture the good name of cricket being besmirched abroad.

Yesterday was the exception, as players, committee men and assorted hangers-on renewed acquaintances after the winter. Those in the department of the law were pleased to find that the old tree, they had weathered the hurricane and were still alive. Some felt it was more than could be said for their favourite game.

There was much to discuss, and not all of it concerned the parochial issue of Kent's prospects for the coming season.

Most speeches and conversations related to the problems emanating from England's winter: from the chairman and captain downwards there were mutterings that dissent would not be tolerated, that pressure on umpires was becoming intolerable and that neither would afflict the Garden of England.

The Kent players to whom *The Times* spoke at their photo-call yesterday were unanimous that dissent, bad behaviour and rows with umpires would not spill over into county cricket.

"The troubles this winter have about through cricketers having to play for their Test places," Christopher Cowdrey, the Kent captain, said. "Obviously, there have been bad umpiring decisions, but then I am four or five bad decisions each summer. We do not complain at county level because we are playing continuously. At Test level there are television replays and time in which to examine them."

"I think England have three choices over what to do in future. Either we accept bad decisions and continue spurring or we decide it is not worth the

Cowdrey: keeping faith

trouble and do not go. The third alternative is to have neutral umpires. I feel a neutral panel of Test umpires should be introduced since there will be no complaint if an England batsman is given out by an Australian umpire in India.

"It was very disappointing watching it all from a distance. As to fines, I think a list should be drawn up of what behaviour is not acceptable and which offences will lead to fines. But I do not envisage any problems in county cricket," he said.

Chris Tavare, the former England batsman, agreed that neutral umpires should be introduced. "In football, a home referee does not officiate over the home side. There is an awful lot of pressure on umpires in Tests and even the good ones make mistakes. We must help other countries to produce decent umpires."

"Yet abusing umpires is still a very rare occurrence. I find what goes on in tennis now is unbelievable. Players do not abuse umpires in county cricket because if they do, they come up against disciplinary committees. There is bound to be the odd flare-up because the stakes are so high, but cricket is in good order. People were looking to run it down because England were not winning."

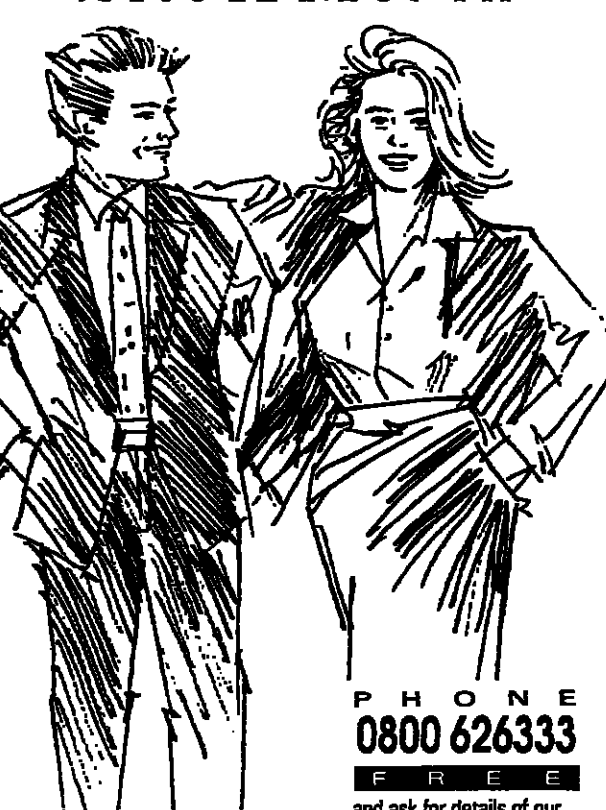
Richard Ellison, looking fit and well after missing all of last season through injury, said he could foresee no dissent in Test or county cricket this summer "unless umpires are given more powers, which could lead to incidents being blown out of proportion."

"I do not think neutral umpires are necessary, but the standard of umpiring generally needs improving. Those abused are aware, they make mistakes. Yet I can see fines becoming more severe," he said. "Everyone makes mistakes, including umpires. In the heat of the moment it is easy for dissent to occur, although you must not condone it," Ellison said.

Lord Harris, perhaps the biggest figure in Kent's history, once said of cricketers: "We do well to love it, for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, than any game in the world." Or is it?

Results, page 39

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President to inspect

Seoul (AP) — Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will receive briefings on preparations for the Games and inspect the athletes' village, now in its final stage of completion, from May 30.

Samaranch will also attend the June 3 opening of the international driving and synchronized swimming competitions, at the new pool.

Prizes raised

Prize money for the Trusthouse Forte PGA seniors' golf championship at North Berwick from June 23 to 26 has been raised by 25 per cent to £40,000 with the champion receiving £7,500.

Elliott race

Peter Elliott, Britain's world athletics championship silver medal winner in Rome, will race in the Giro Bank Games in Belfast on June 27.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Schofield: honoured

Lone Briton

Garry Schofield, the Leeds centre, is the only Great Britain player named in the Adidas world rugby league writers' team, but it includes the Australians, Garry Jack, the Salford full back, and Dale Shearer, the Widzew wing.

Oxford tour

Oxford University women's lacrosse team, captained by Emily Formby, fly to Boston today for their first tour abroad. They play Harvard on Saturday, while England will face the United States in the first of three representative matches in Baltimore.

Rally deaths

Hallsberg (AFP) — Bo Nordin and Ronnie Palmqvist, Swedish rally drivers, were killed while testing an Audi Quattro. The car suffered only minor damage after hitting a snow bank but the drivers were not wearing seat belts.

Kept apart

Laws which allow girls to play in boys' rugby union, cricket and football teams have been scrapped by the New South Wales government after Nick Greiner, the new premier, described them as "anti-discrimination gone mad."

Boston entries

Boston (AP) — Abebe Mekonen, the Tokyo marathon champion, will lead the Ethiopian runners in the Boston marathon on April 18.

In the basket

Ghent (Reuters) — Argentina will hold the 1990 world basketball championship after supplying the sport's governing body with \$3.3 million (about £1,760,000).

Top spin lifts Sabatini to one-sided victory

From Barry Wood, Hilton Head, South Carolina

Gabriela Sabatini won the Argentinian top-spin contest against Patricia Tarabini, taking less than an hour to win 6-1, 6-2 and reach the third round of the Family Circle Magazine Cup in Hilton Head yesterday.

In view of Miss Tarabini's success last week, when she reached the semi-finals, a less one-sided confrontation may have been expected, but Miss Sabatini's strength and a frequent use of the drop shot ensured that her opponent could never settle into the match.

Zina Garrison produced a welcome victory over Austria's Petra Huber, winning 6-4, 7-5. Several changes have taken their toll on Miss Garrison of late. She has been signed by a management company and is having to satisfy their demands, she has been separated in doubles from her best friend, Lori McNeil, and

has swapped coaches with Miss McNeil, working with Willis Thomas instead of John Wilkerson.

Unexpected losses to Elena Reinach and Halle Cioffe recently have done little for Miss Garrison's confidence, but she is certain the changes will eventually bear fruit.

"The biggest change I'm having to deal with is in working strategy for myself. I'm not used to that, because John used to do that before the match, but in crucial situations you've got to be able to work things out for yourself," she said.

"I'm also trying to step into the ball more, and to put more top spin on my forehand. It may not all work now, but I'm a fighter and will always come out on top."

Results, page 39

LAST WEEK'S QUOTED DAILY SALE No 63,050

Top chas Guin

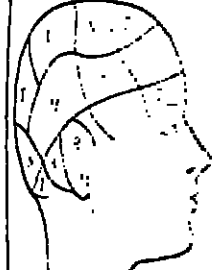
Fraud s leading

Mr David Mayhew, a partner in Cazenove & Co, the most prestigious firm of stockbrokers in the City, was arrested yesterday and charged with three offences arising out of his role in the Guinness affair.

Mr Mayhew, aged 47, was arrested at 1.30pm after he arrived at the Fines Squad's London headquarters for a pre-arrested interview. He was released within two hours and will appear at Bow Street magistrates court today.

He is the sixth person to be arrested and charged in connection with Guinness. He was closely followed by Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, who voluntarily handed himself to the police last month to face charges.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



The Times Tournament of the Mind now enters its most challenging stages. The finals for the individual £500 prize and The Times Mind of the Year trophy will be played over six days starting on Monday. Even if you have not reached the final you can still put your brains against some of the best in Britain.

WIN £10,000

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator

After Mrs Jennifer Cullen's £152,000 win on Wednesday, the Accumulator fund now stands at £10,000. Some readers shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 31).

Today's prices, page 29

INFLATION 2

921m issue

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